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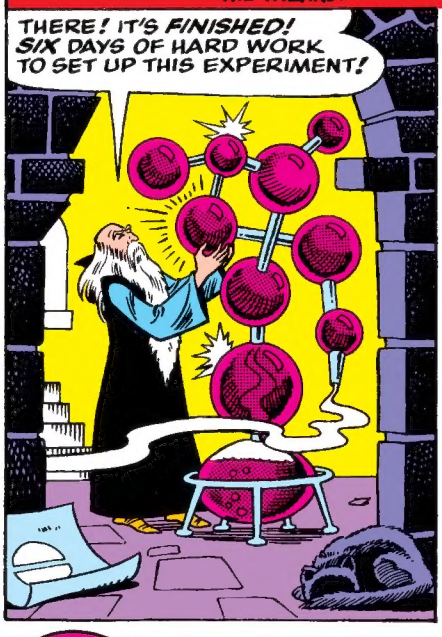
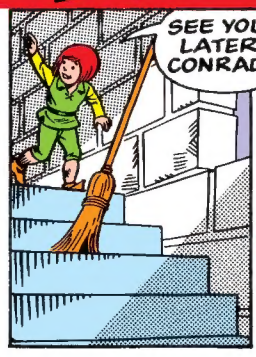
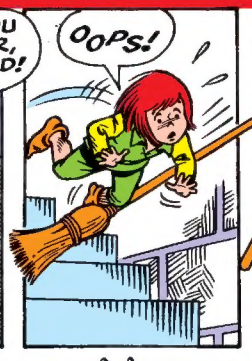
MARVEL®
WALLY
THE WIZARD™
THIS ISSUE PRINCESS PENELOPE IS "KIDNAPPED!"
UHHHHH! IT'S NO USE! PENELOPE IS BEING KEPT BEHIND AN IMPREGNABLE FORCE FIELD!
WARREN KREMER

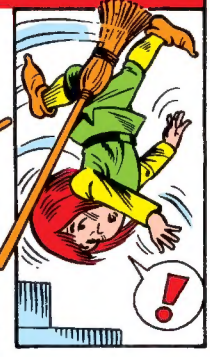
WALLY IN "KIDNAPPED!"

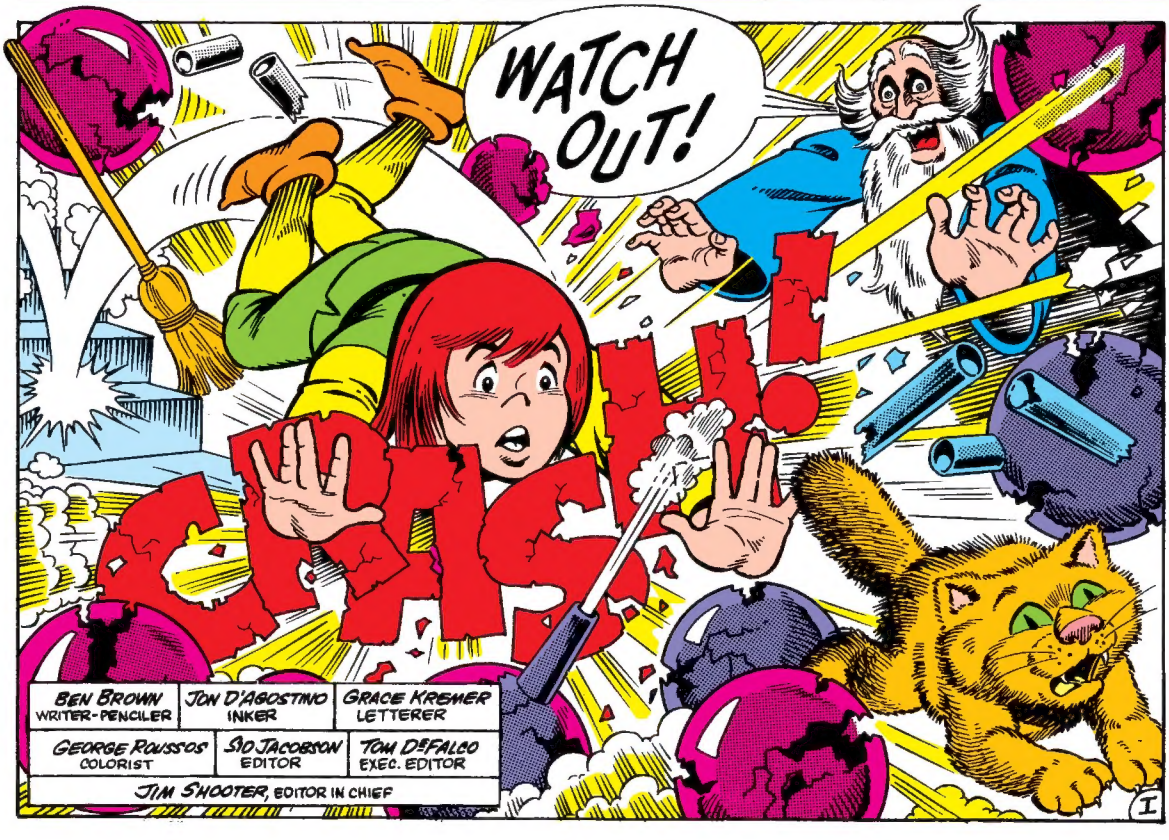
THE WIZARD.











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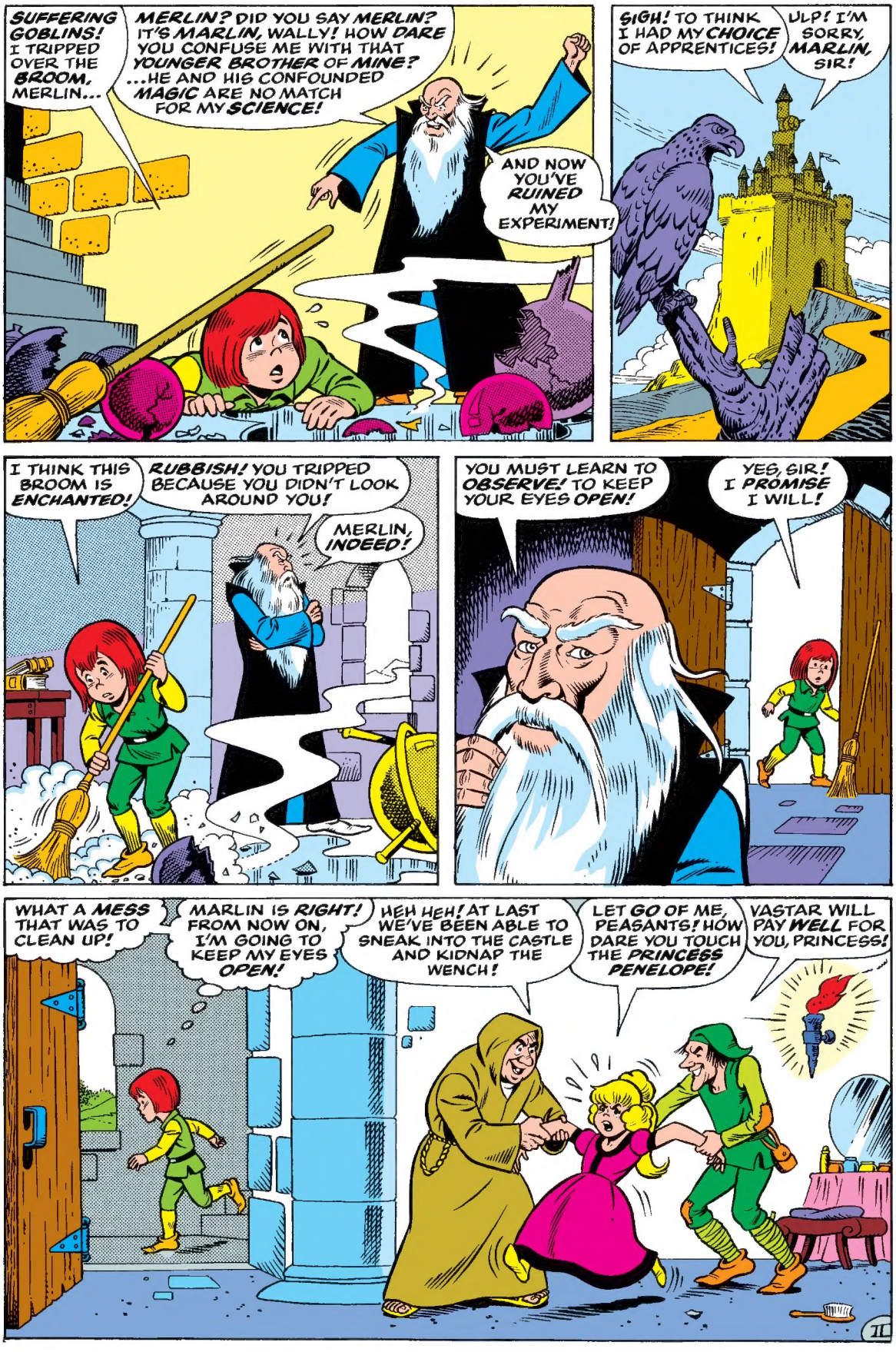
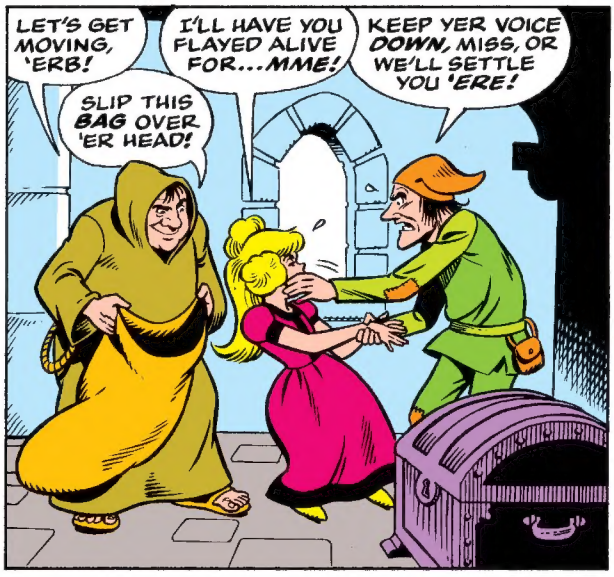
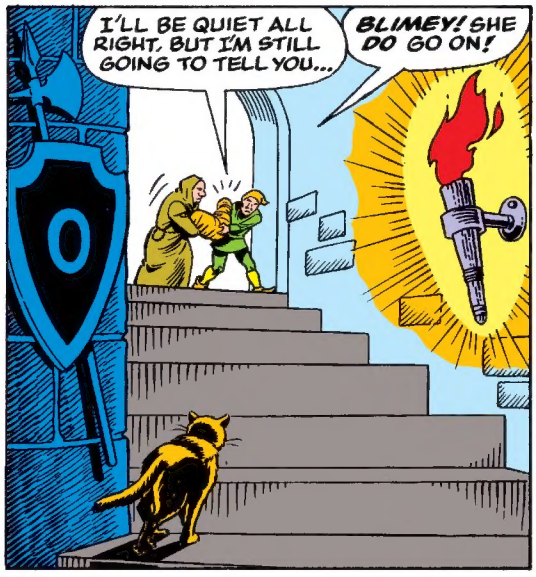
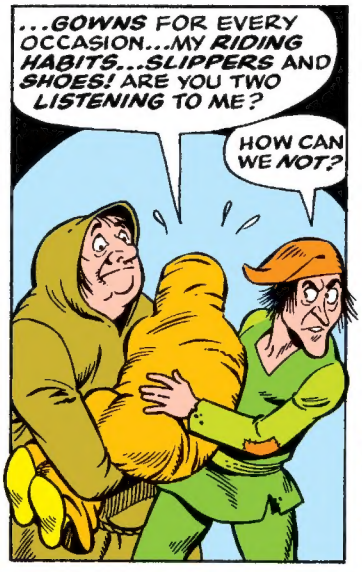
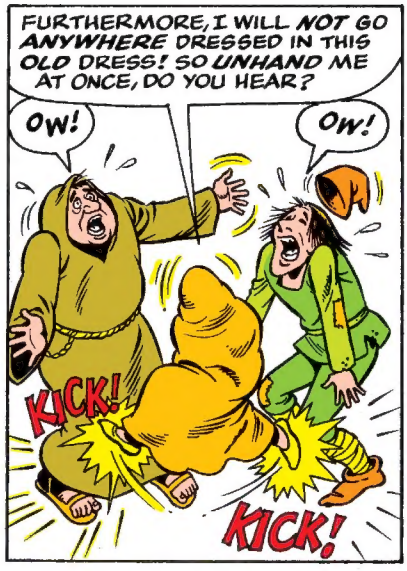

SUFFERING GOBLINS! I TRIPPED OVER THE BROOM, MERLIN...
MERLIN? DID YOU SAY MERLIN? IT'S MARLIN, WALLY! HOW DARE YOU CONFUSE ME WITH THAT YOUNGER BROTHER OF MINE? ...HE AND HIS CONFOUNDED MAGIC ARE NO MATCH FOR MY SCIENCE!
AND NOW YOU'VE RUINED MY EXPERIMENT!
SIGH! TO THINK I HAD MY CHOICE OF APPRENTICES!
ULP! I'M SORRY, MARLIN, SIR!
I THINK THIS BROOM IS ENCHANTED!
RUBBISH! YOU TRIPPED BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T LOOK AROUND YOU!
MERLIN, INDEED!
YOU MUST LEARN TO OBSERVE! TO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!
YES, SIR! I PROMISE I WILL!
WHAT A MESS THAT WAS TO CLEAN UP!
MARLIN IS RIGHT! FROM NOW ON, I'M GOING TO KEEP MY EYES OPEN!
HEH HEH! AT LAST WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO SNEAK INTO THE CASTLE AND KIDNAP THE WENCH!
LET GO OF ME, PEASANTS! HOW DARE YOU TOUCH THE PRINCESS PENELOPE!
VASTAR WILL PAY WELL FOR YOU, PRINCESS!

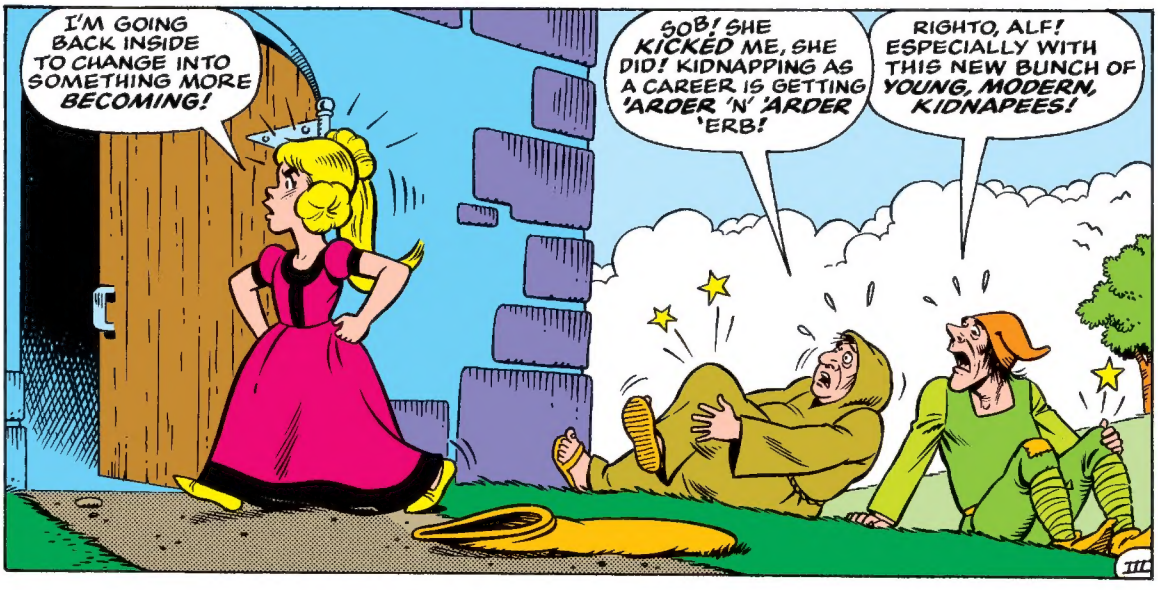

LET'S GET MOVING, 'ERB!
I'LL HAVE YOU FLAYED ALIVE FOR...MME!
KEEP YER VOICE DOWN, MISS, OR WE'LL SETTLE YOU 'ERE!
SLIP THIS BAG OVER 'ER HEAD!

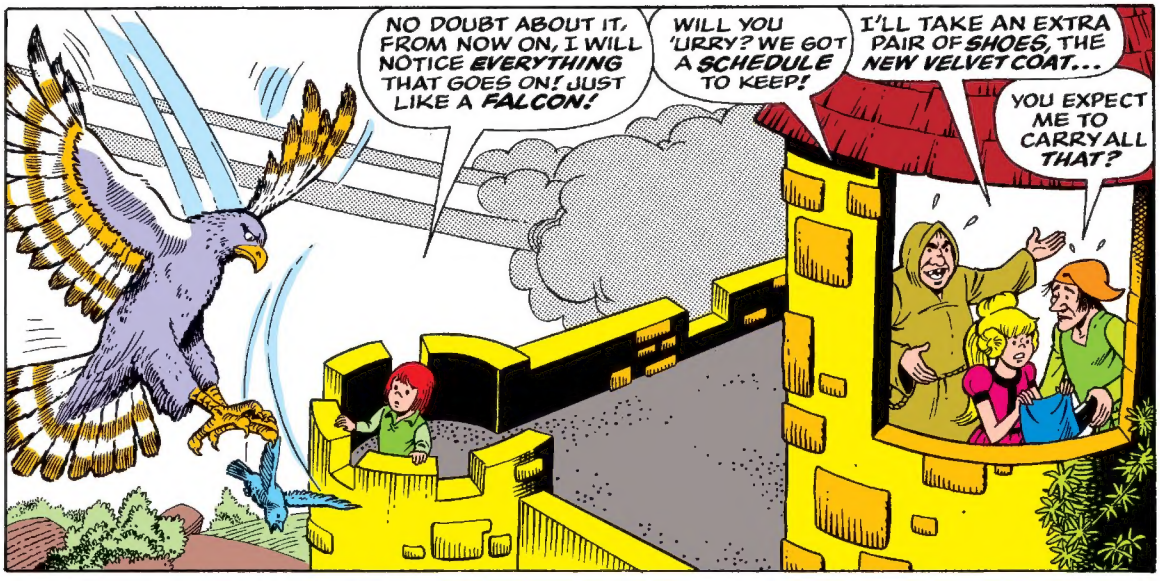

I'LL BE QUIET ALL RIGHT, BUT I'M STILL GOING TO TELL YOU...
BLIMEY! SHE DO GO ON!

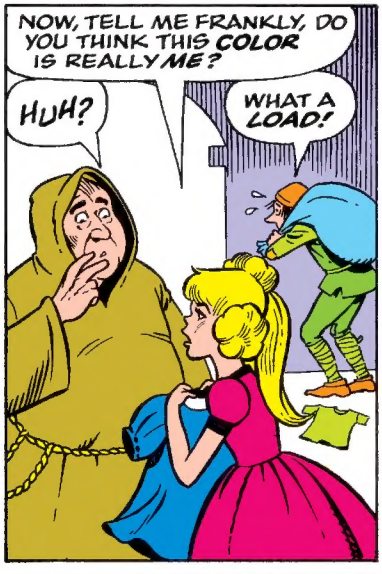
...THAT A ROYAL PRINCESS NEVER TRAVELS WITHOUT A SUITABLE WARDROBE...
WATCH YER STEP, 'ERB!
SHE'S WORSE THAN ME WIFE!


...GOWNS FOR EVERY OCCASION...MY RIDING HABITS...SLIPPERS AND SHOES! ARE YOU TWO LISTENING TO ME?
HOW CAN WE NOT?

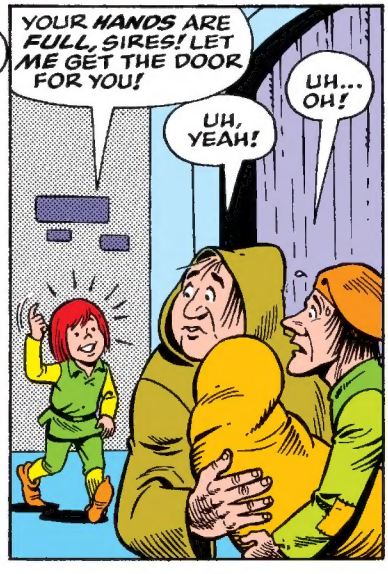

FURTHERMORE, I WILL NOT GO ANYWHERE DRESSED IN THIS OLD DRESS! SO UNHAND ME AT ONCE, DO YOU HEAR?
OW!
OW!
KICK!
KICK!


I'M GOING BACK INSIDE TO CHANGE INTO SOMETHING MORE BECOMING!
SOB! SHE KICKED ME, SHE DID! KIDNAPPING AS A CAREER IS GETTING 'ARDER 'N' 'ARDER 'ERB!
RIGHTO, ALF! ESPECIALLY WITH THIS NEW BUNCH OF YOUNG, MODERN, KIDNAPEES!

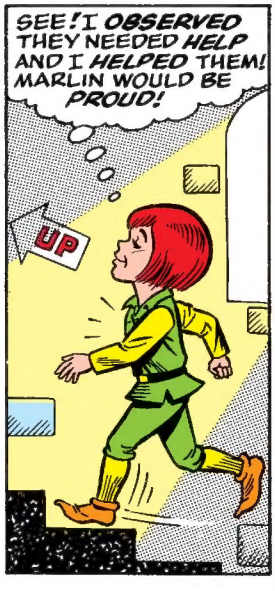

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, FROM NOW ON, I WILL NOTICE EVERYTHING THAT GOES ON! JUST LIKE A FALCON!
WILL YOU 'URRY? WE GOT A SCHEDULE TO KEEP!
I'LL TAKE AN EXTRA PAIR OF SHOES, THE NEW VELVET COAT...
YOU EXPECT ME TO CARRY ALL THAT?


NOW, TELL ME FRANKLY, DO YOU THINK THIS COLOR IS REALLY ME?
HUH?
WHAT A LOAD!

WHEW! AT LAST WE CAN GET GOING!
GOSH! THOSE CHAPS SEEM TO BE HAVING TROUBLE OPENING THAT DOOR!

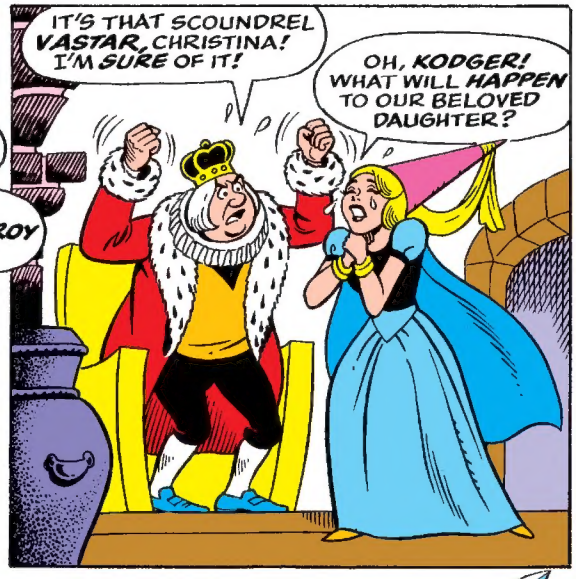

YOUR HANDS ARE FULL, SIRES! LET ME GET THE DOOR FOR YOU!
UH, YEAH!
UH... OH!

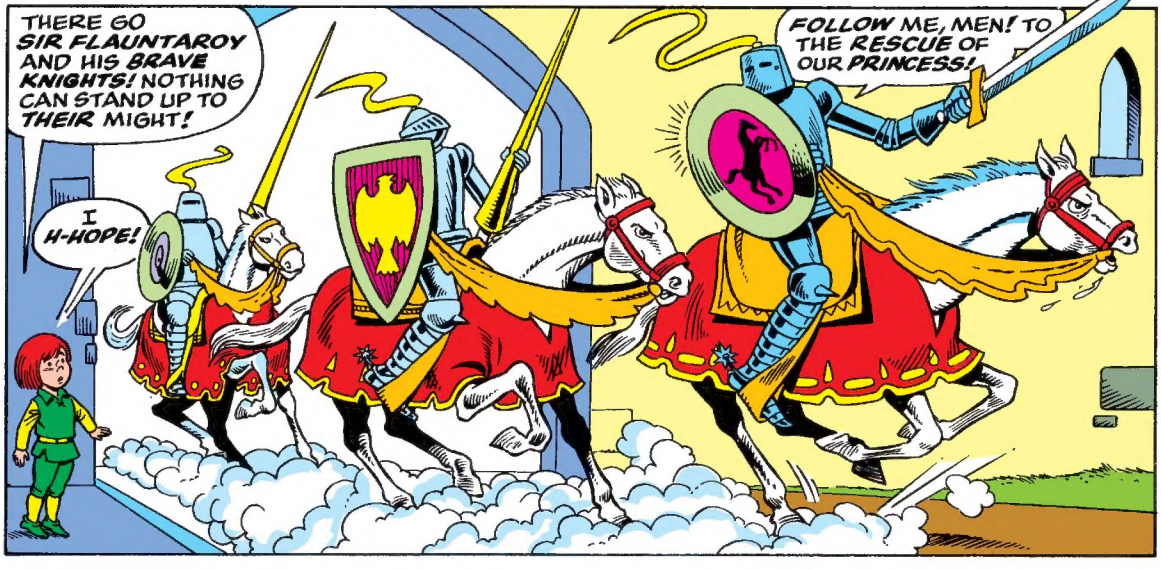
HAVE A NICE DAY!
NICE KID!
DON'T BOUNCE ME!
'E GOT MANNERS 'E 'AS!

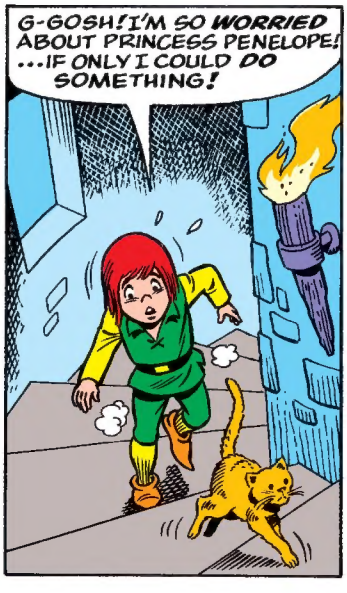

SEE! I OBSERVED THEY NEEDED HELP AND I HELPED THEM! MARLIN WOULD BE PROUD!
UP

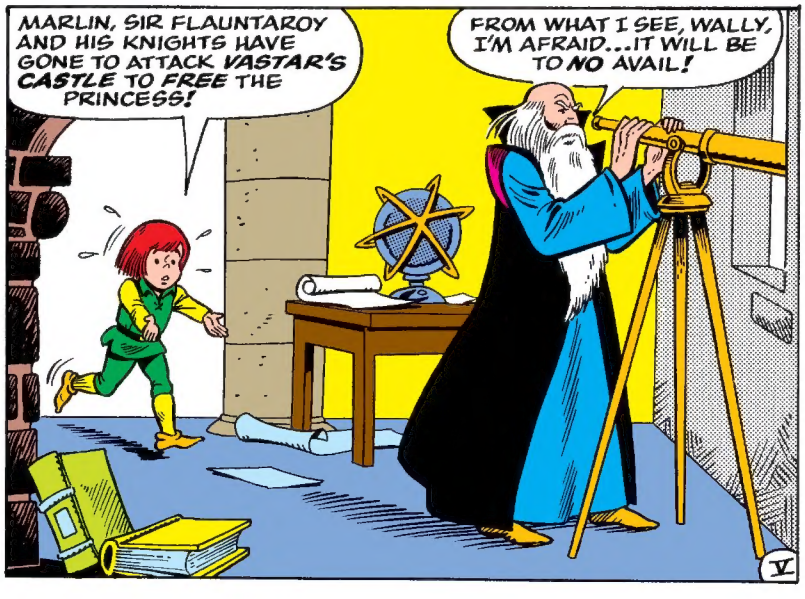
SOUND THE ALARM! THE PRINCESS HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED!
P-PENELOPE!? GASP! THE LOVE OF MY LIFE!

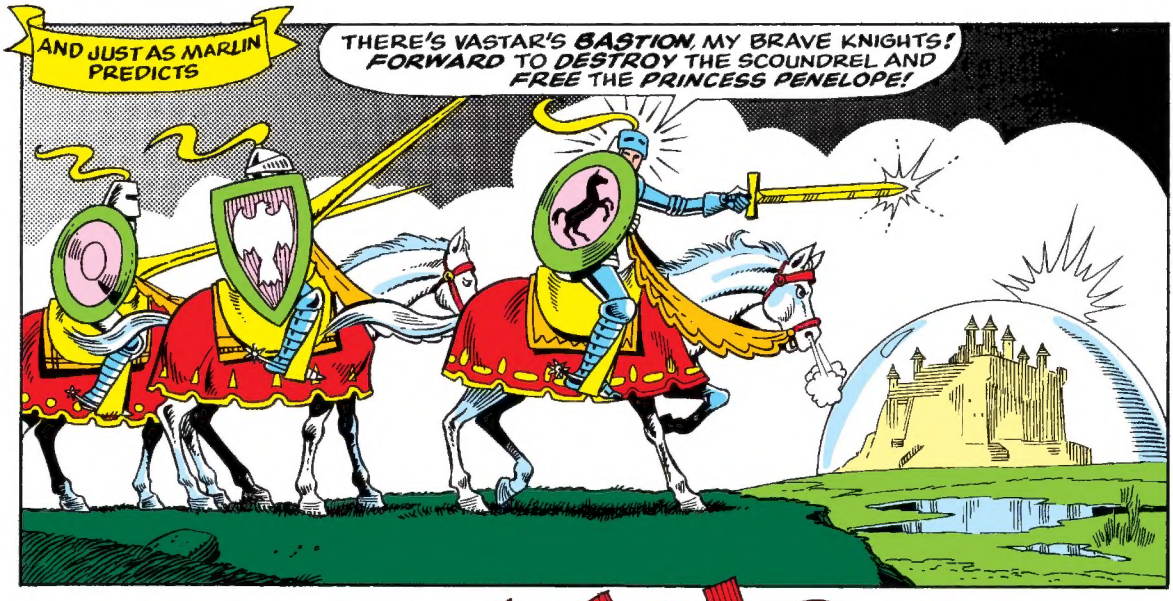
CALL OUT THE GUARD!
TO ARMS! TO ARMS!
SOB! MY POOR BABY GIRL HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED!
RED ALERT!
LOWER THE DRAWBRIDGE!
HAVE NO FEAR, FLAUNTAROY IS HERE!


IT'S THAT SCOUNDREL VASTAR, CHRISTINA! I'M SURE OF IT!
OH, KODGER! WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OUR BELOVED DAUGHTER?

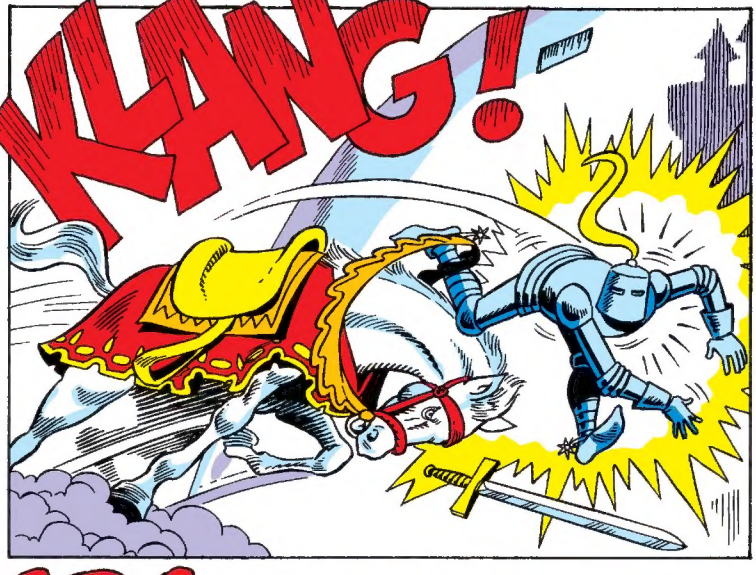

THERE GO SIR FLAUNTAROY AND HIS BRAVE KNIGHTS! NOTHING CAN STAND UP TO THEIR MIGHT!
I H-HOPE!
FOLLOW ME, MEN! TO THE RESCUE OF OUR PRINCESS!

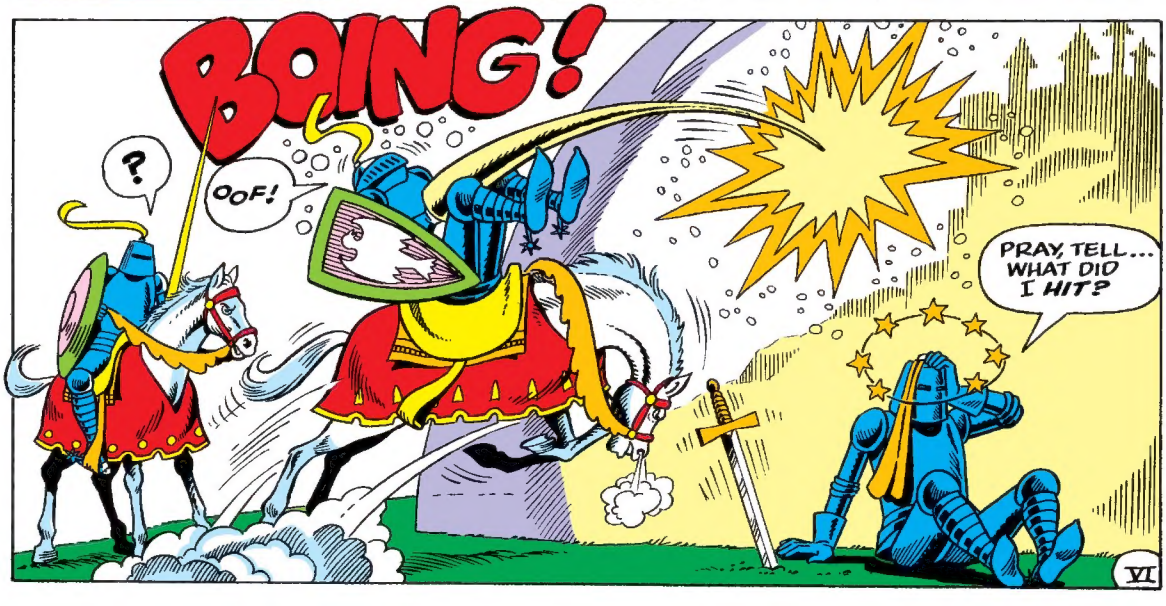

G-GOSH! I'M SO WORRIED ABOUT PRINCESS PENELOPE! ...IF ONLY I COULD DO SOMETHING!

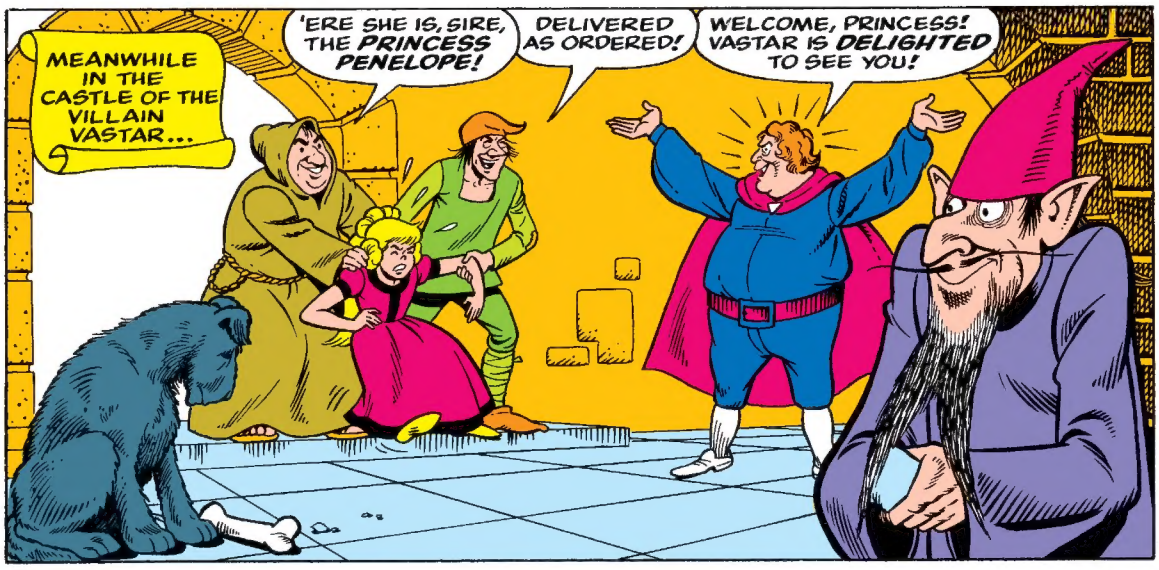

MARLIN, SIR FLAUNTAROY AND HIS KNIGHTS HAVE GONE TO ATTACK VASTAR'S CASTLE TO FREE THE PRINCESS!
FROM WHAT I SEE, WALLY, I'M AFRAID...IT WILL BE TO NO AVAIL!

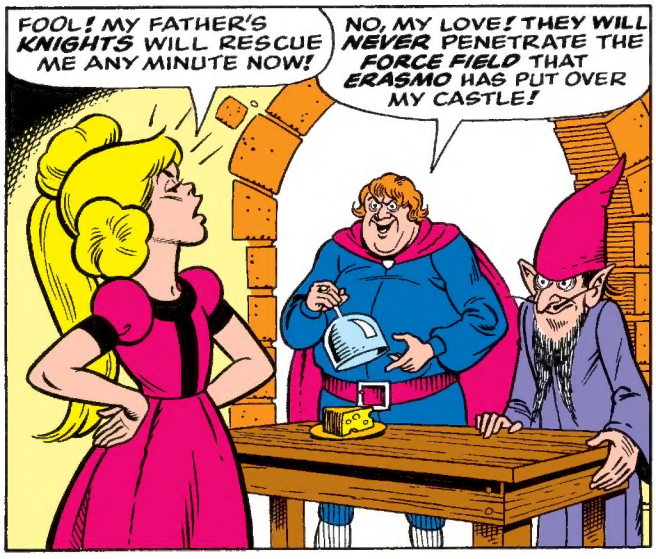

AND JUST AS MARLIN PREDICTS
THERE'S VASTAR'S BASTION, MY BRAVE KNIGHTS! FORWARD TO DESTROY THE SCOUNDREL AND FREE THE PRINCESS PENELOPE!

DEATH TO VARLOTS AND TYRANTS, CHARG...

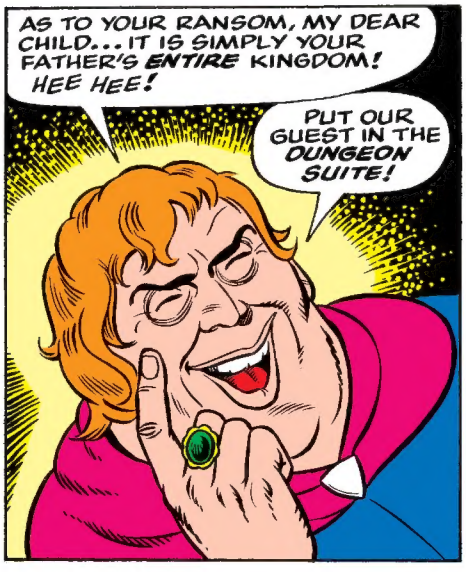

KLANG!

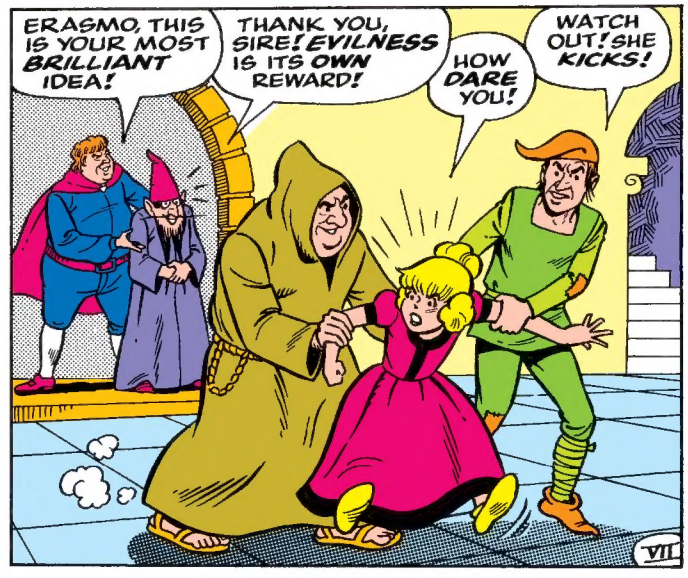

BOING!
?
OOF!
PRAY, TELL... WHAT DID I HIT?
VI

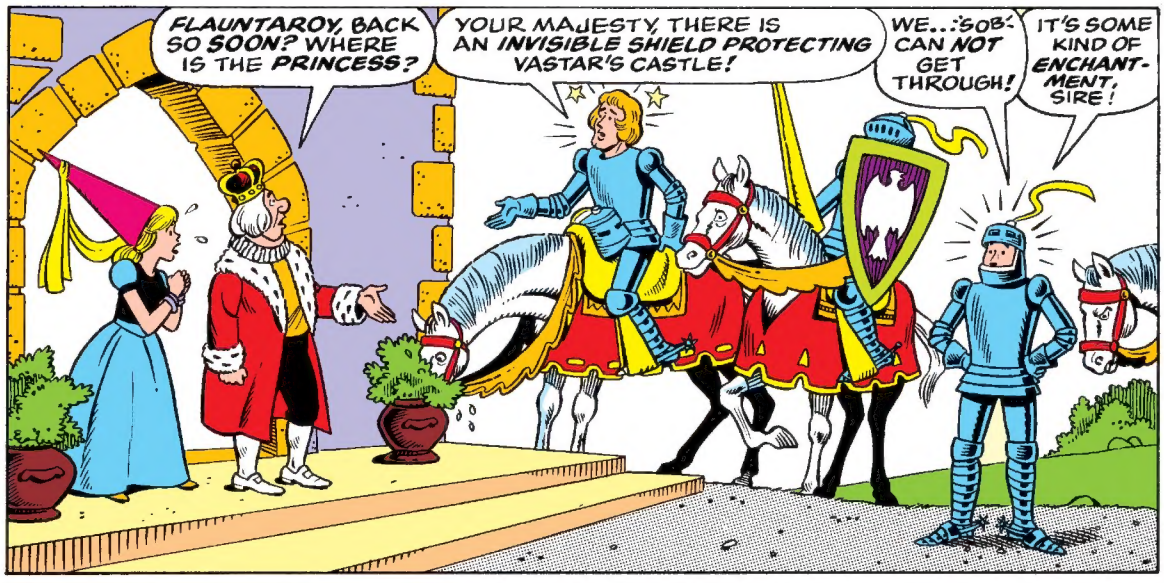

MEANWHILE IN THE CASTLE OF THE VILLAIN VASTAR...
'ERE SHE IS, SIRE, THE PRINCESS PENELOPE!
DELIVERED AS ORDERED!
WELCOME, PRINCESS! VASTAR IS DELIGHTED TO SEE YOU!

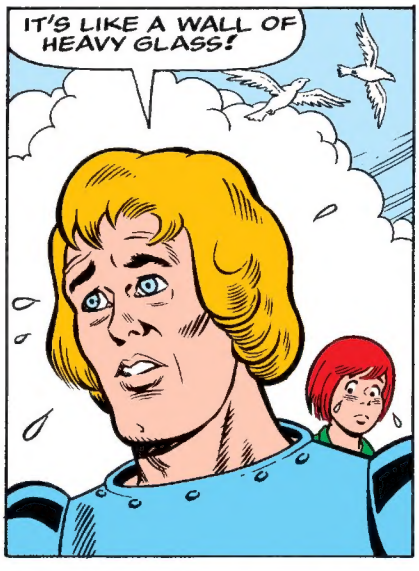

FOOL! MY FATHER'S KNIGHTS WILL RESCUE ME ANY MINUTE NOW!
NO, MY LOVE! THEY WILL NEVER PENETRATE THE FORCE FIELD THAT ERASMO HAS PUT OVER MY CASTLE!

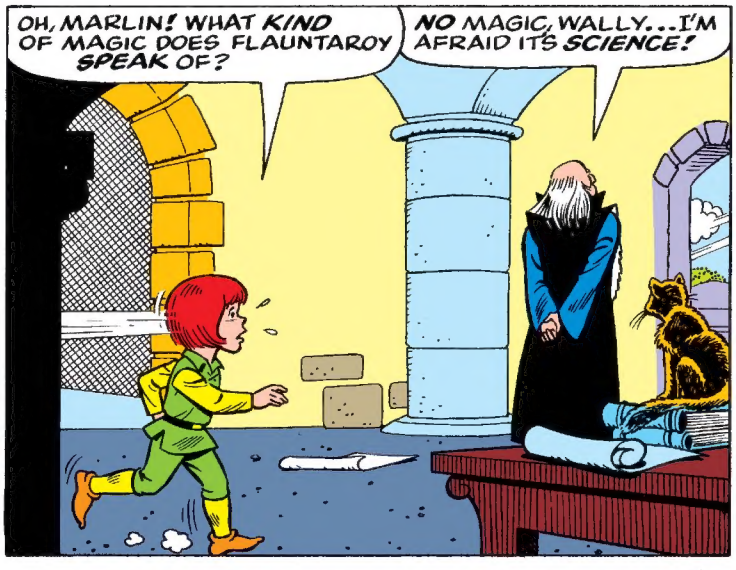
WHAT IN THE ELYSIAN FIELDS IS A FORCE FIELD?
OBSERVE! IT IS LIKE THIS GOBLET I PLACE OVER THE CHEESE! YOU CAN SEE THE CHEESE, BUT YOU CAN'T TOUCH IT!
TAP!
TAP!

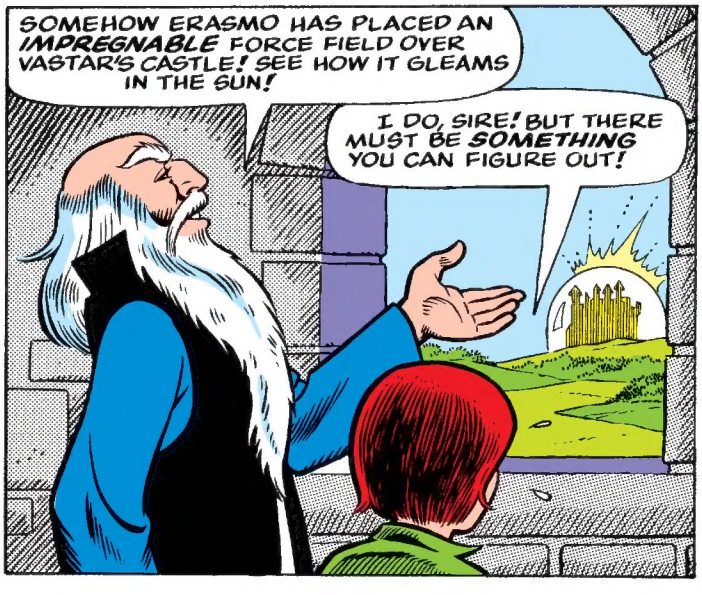

AS TO YOUR RANSOM, MY DEAR CHILD... IT IS SIMPLY YOUR FATHER'S ENTIRE KINGDOM! HEE HEE!
PUT OUR GUEST IN THE DUNGEON SUITE!

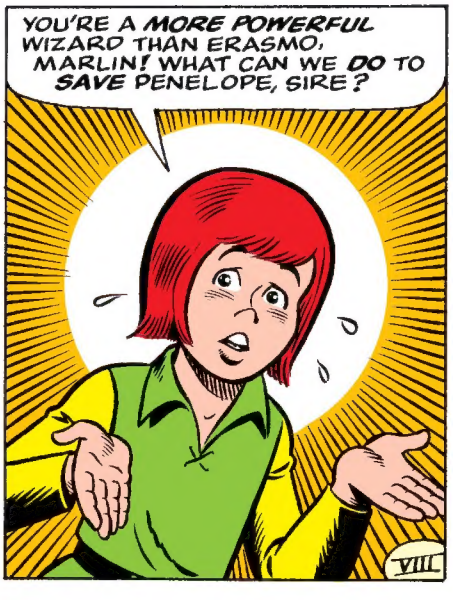

ERASMO, THIS IS YOUR MOST BRILLIANT IDEA!
THANK YOU, SIRE! EVILNESS IS ITS OWN REWARD!
HOW DARE YOU!
WATCH OUT! SHE KICKS!

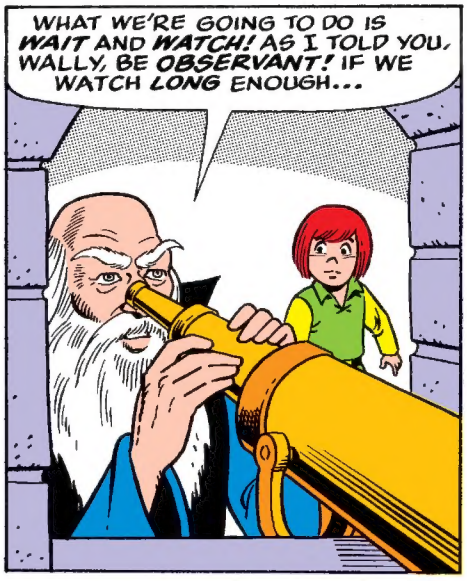

FLAUNTAROY, BACK SO SOON? WHERE IS THE PRINCESS?
YOUR MAJESTY, THERE IS AN INVISIBLE SHIELD PROTECTING VASTAR'S CASTLE!
WE...SOB CAN NOT GET THROUGH!
IT'S SOME KIND OF ENCHANTMENT, SIRE!

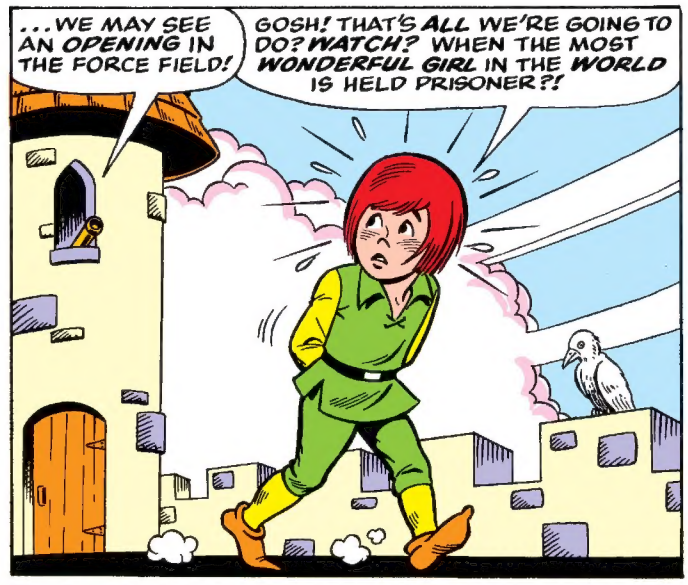

IT'S LIKE A WALL OF HEAVY GLASS!

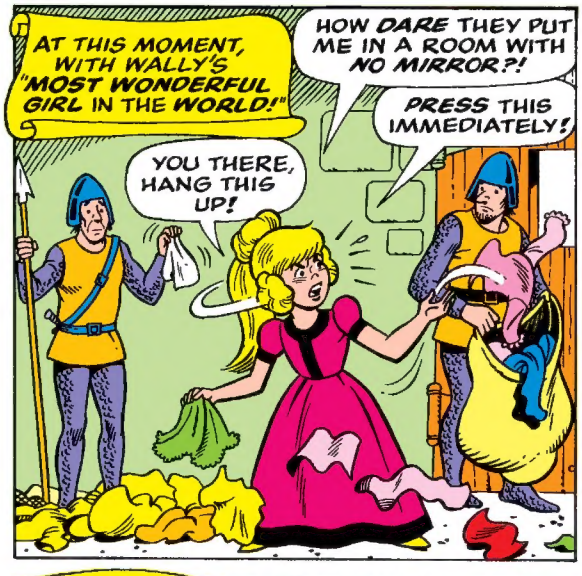

OH, MARLIN! WHAT KIND OF MAGIC DOES FLAUNTAROY SPEAK OF?
NO MAGIC, WALLY...I'M AFRAID IT'S SCIENCE!

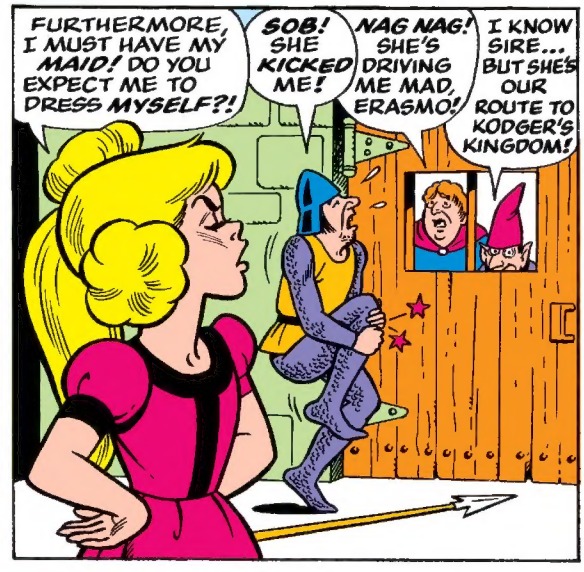

SOMEHOW ERASMO HAS PLACED AN IMPREGNABLE FORCE FIELD OVER VASTAR'S CASTLE! SEE HOW IT GLEAMS IN THE SUN!
I DO, SIRE! BUT THERE MUST BE SOMETHING YOU CAN FIGURE OUT!


YOU'RE A MORE POWERFUL WIZARD THAN ERASMO, MARLIN! WHAT CAN WE DO TO SAVE PENELOPE, SIRE?
VIII

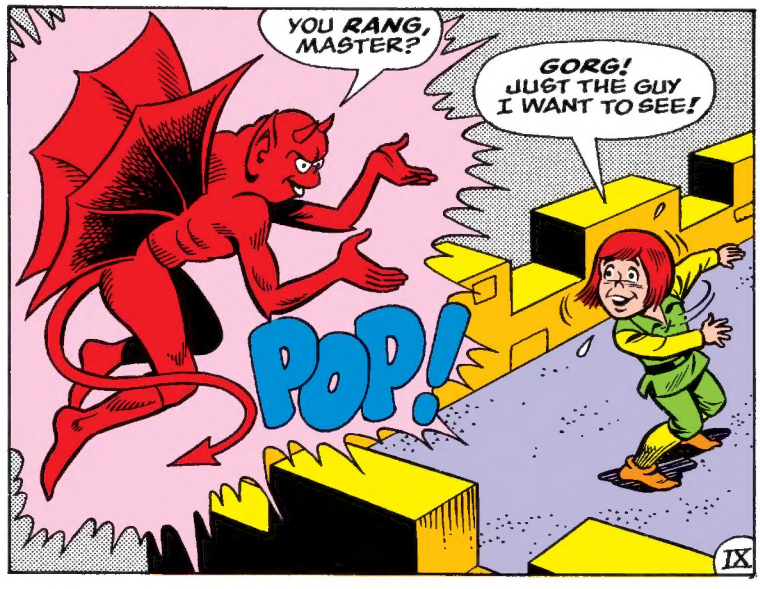

WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO IS WAIT AND WATCH! AS I TOLD YOU, WALLY, BE OBSERVANT! IF WE WATCH LONG ENOUGH...

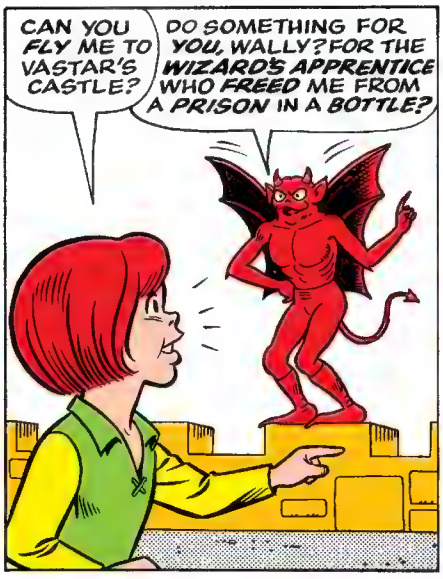

...WE MAY SEE AN OPENING IN THE FORCE FIELD!
GOSH! THAT'S ALL WE'RE GOING TO DO? WATCH? WHEN THE MOST WONDERFUL GIRL IN THE WORLD IS HELD PRISONER?!

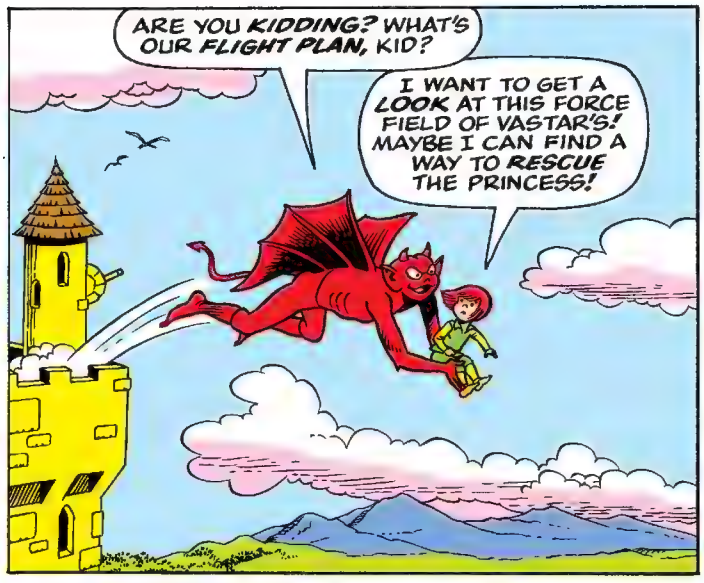

AT THIS MOMENT, WITH WALLY'S "MOST WONDERFUL GIRL IN THE WORLD!"
HOW DARE THEY PUT ME IN A ROOM WITH NO MIRROR?!
PRESS THIS IMMEDIATELY!
YOU THERE, HANG THIS UP!

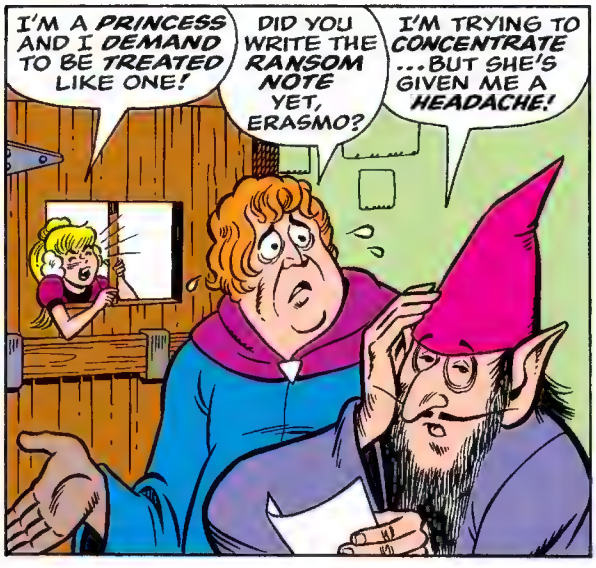

FURTHERMORE, I MUST HAVE MY MAID! DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DRESS MYSELF?!
SOB! SHE KICKED ME!
NAG NAG! SHE'S DRIVING ME MAD, ERASMO!
I KNOW SIRE... BUT SHE'S OUR ROUTE TO KODGER'S KINGDOM!

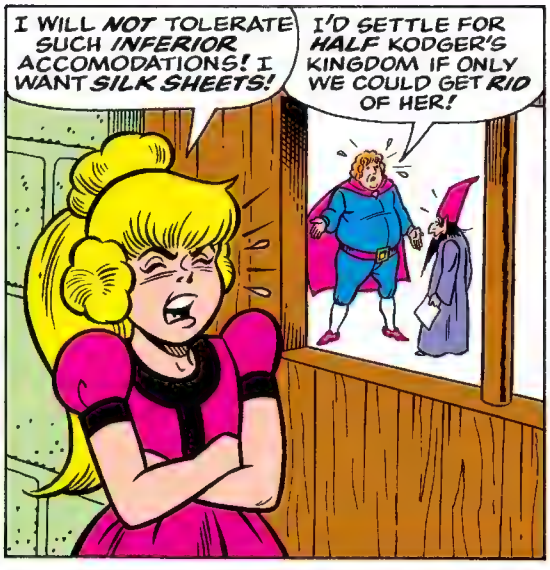
MEANWHILE..
THERE MUST BE A WAY FOR ME TO GET TO VASTAR'S CASTLE! GOLLY, MY FRIEND, GORG, THE DEMON, IS NEVER AROUND WHEN I NEED...

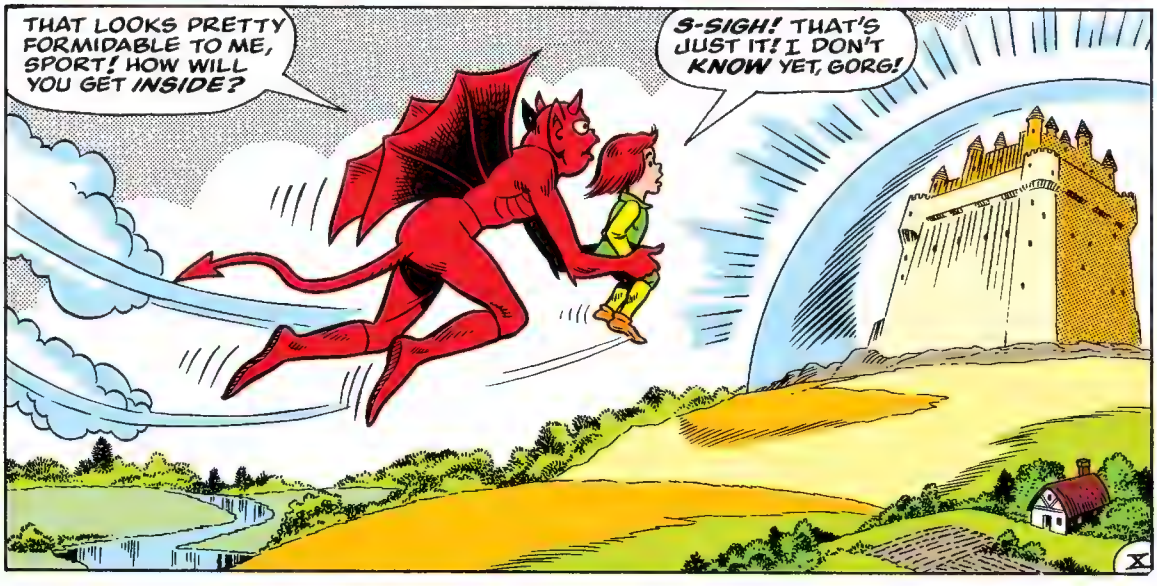

YOU RANG, MASTER?
GORG! JUST THE GUY I WANT TO SEE!
POP!

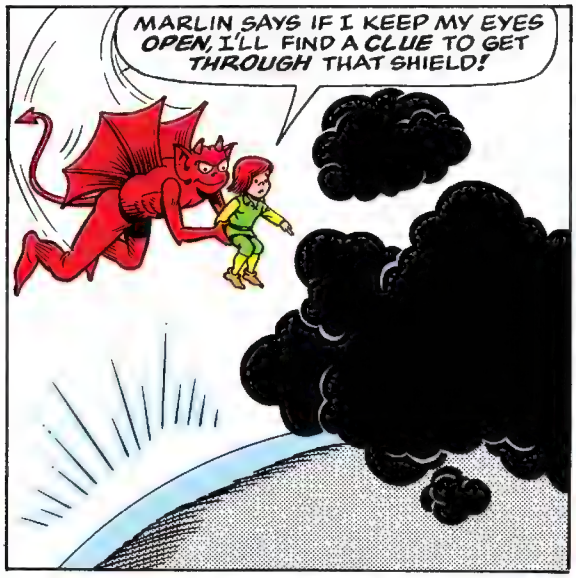

CAN YOU FLY ME TO VASTAR'S CASTLE?
DO SOMETHING FOR YOU, WALLY? FOR THE WIZARD'S APPRENTICE WHO FREED ME FROM A PRISON IN A BOTTLE?


ARE YOU KIDDING? WHAT'S OUR FLIGHT PLAN, KID?
I WANT TO GET A LOOK AT THIS FORCE FIELD OF VASTAR'S! MAYBE I CAN FIND A WAY TO RESCUE THE PRINCESS!


I'M A PRINCESS AND I DEMAND TO BE TREATED LIKE ONE!
DID YOU WRITE THE RANSOM NOTE YET, ERASMO?
I'M TRYING TO CONCENTRATE ...BUT SHE'S GIVEN ME A HEADACHE!


I WILL NOT TOLERATE SUCH INFERIOR ACCOMODATIONS! I WANT SILK SHEETS!
I'D SETTLE FOR HALF KODGER'S KINGDOM IF ONLY WE COULD GET RID OF HER!

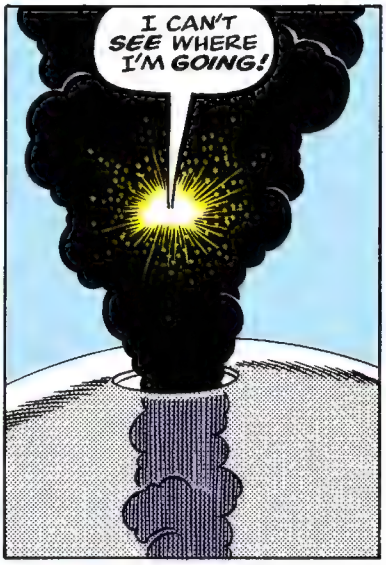

THAT LOOKS PRETTY FORMIDABLE TO ME, SPORT! HOW WILL YOU GET INSIDE?
S-SIGH! THAT'S JUST IT! I DON'T KNOW YET, GORG!

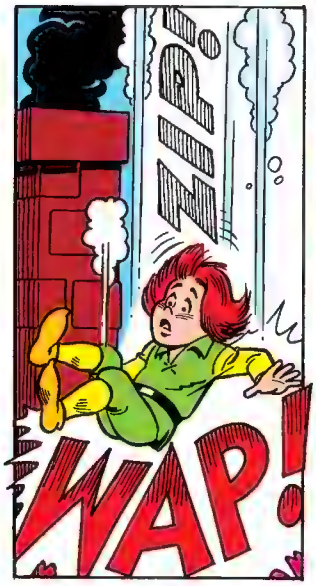

MARLIN SAYS IF I KEEP MY EYES OPEN, I'LL FIND A CLUE TO GET THROUGH THAT SHIELD!

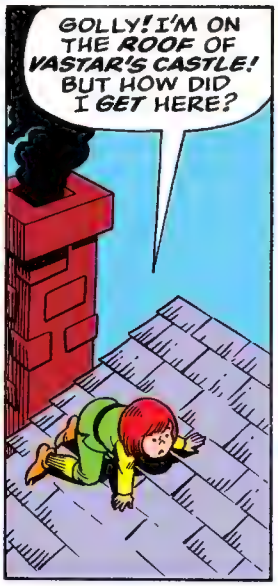
OH, MY GOSH! WHERE DID THIS SMOKE COME FROM?
GAG!
TALK ABOUT AIR POLLUTION...
I CAN'T SEE!
COUGH! COUGH! GORG...GET US OUT OF HERE!

OH, OH! I'VE LOST MY GRIP OF THE KID!
WALLY... WALLY!
GASP! GORG!

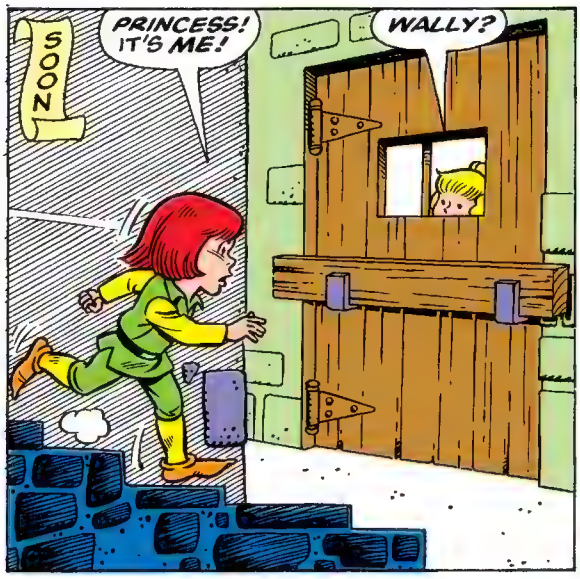
GORG!... I'M... GULP!
FALLING!

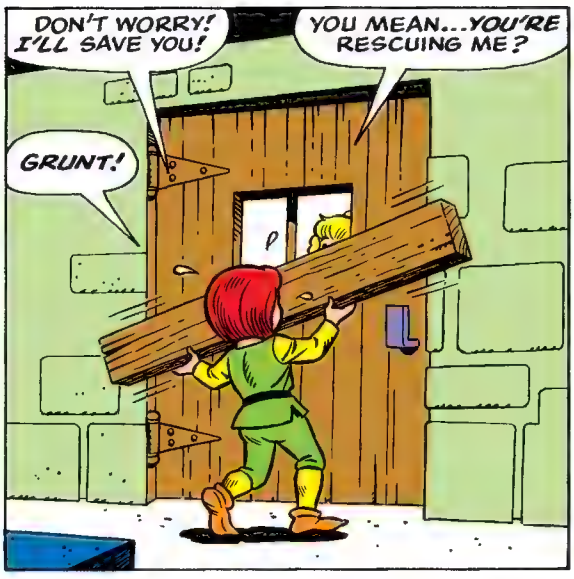

I CAN'T SEE WHERE I'M GOING!

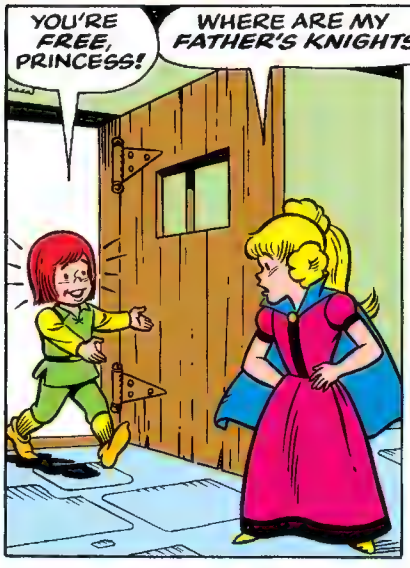

ZIP!
WAP!

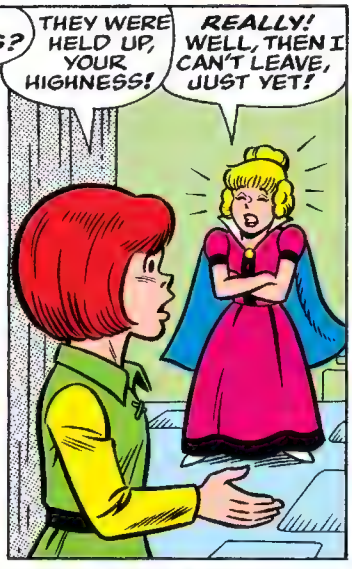

GOLLY! I'M ON THE ROOF OF VASTAR'S CASTLE! BUT HOW DID I GET HERE?

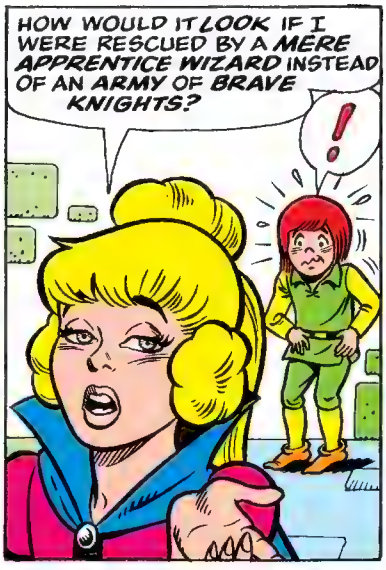
GASP! MARLIN WAS RIGHT! THERE'S A HOLE IN THE TOP OF SHIELD TO LET OUT THE CHIMNEY SMOKE!...THAT'S WHAT I FELL THROUGH! WOW!

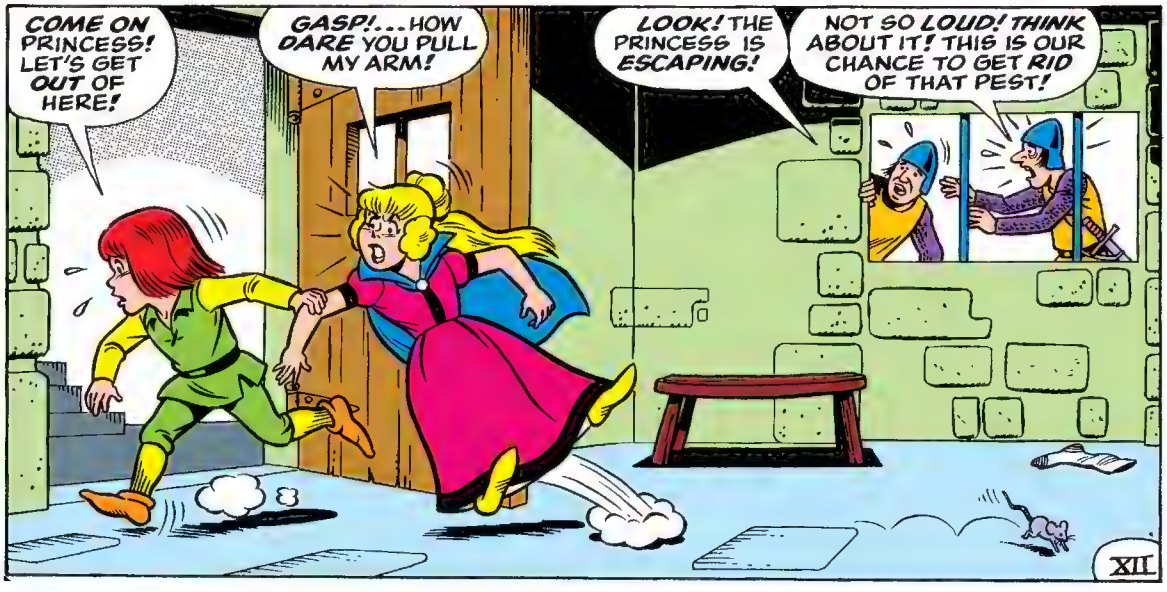

SOON
PRINCESS! IT'S ME!
WALLY?

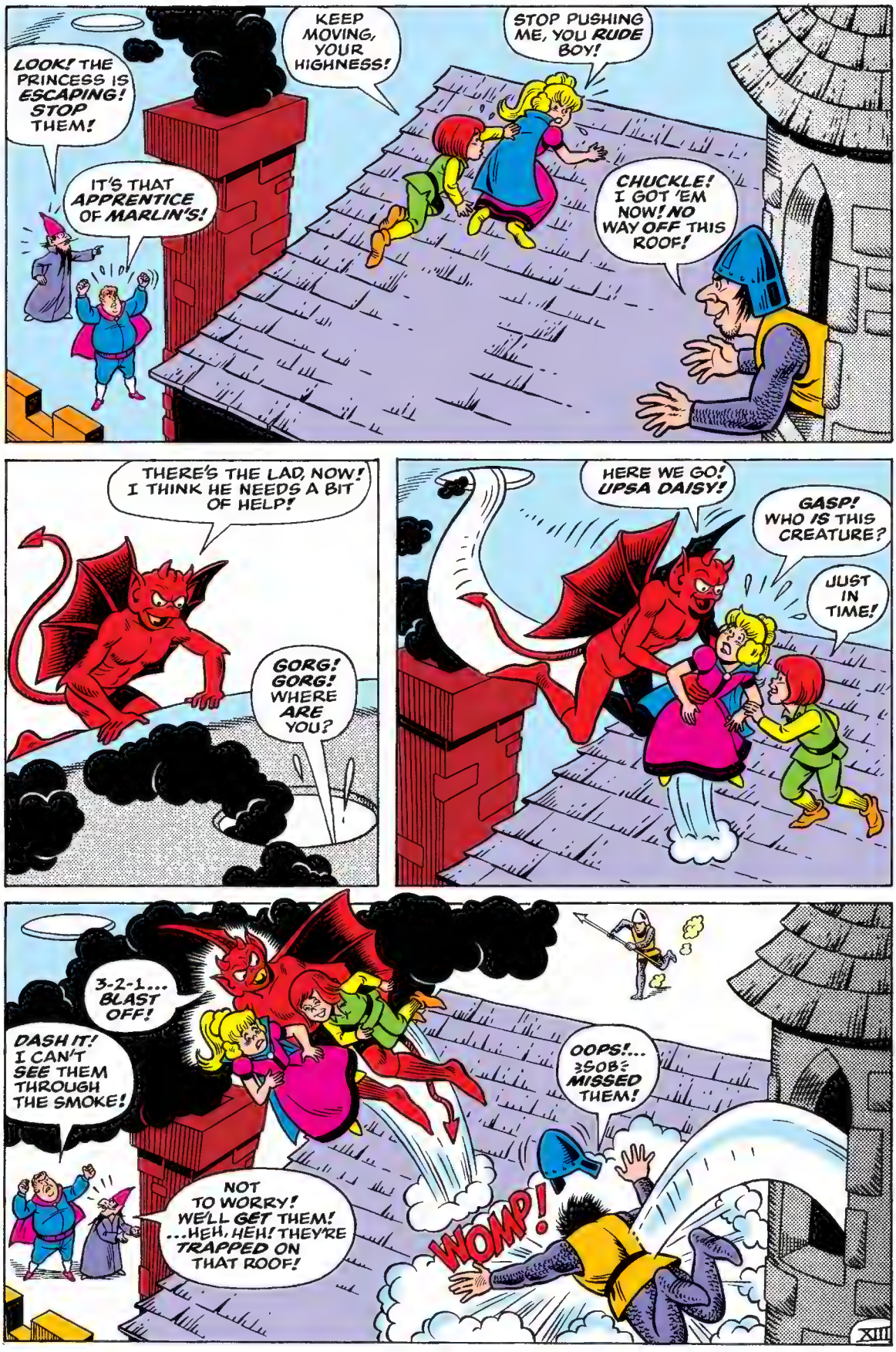

DON'T WORRY! I'LL SAVE YOU!
YOU MEAN...YOU'RE RESCUING ME?
GRUNT!

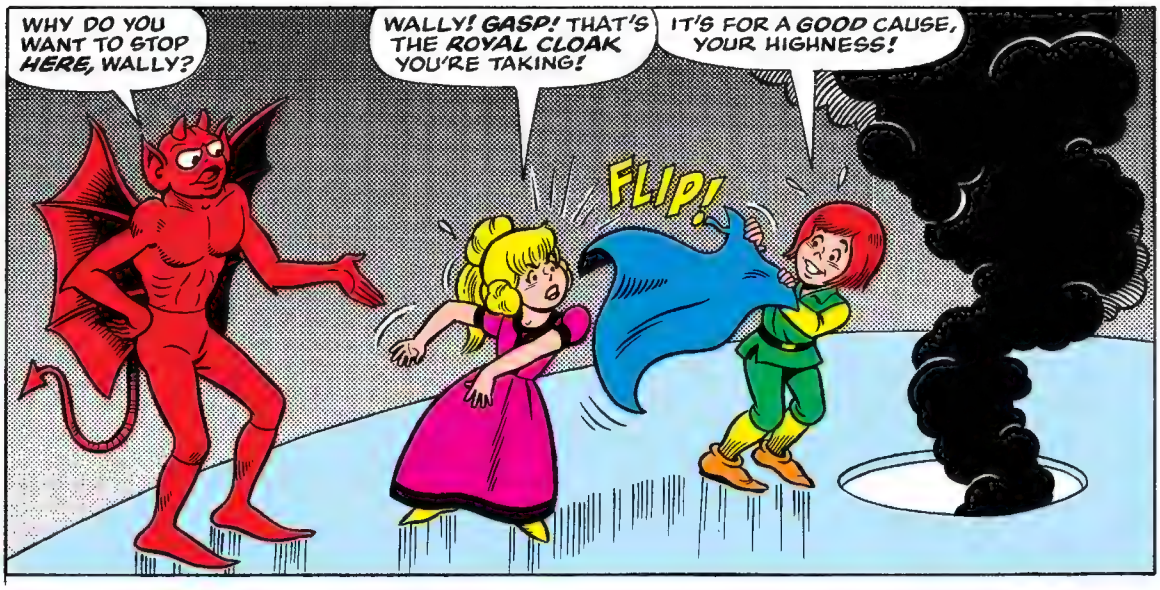

YOU'RE FREE, PRINCESS!
WHERE ARE MY FATHER'S KNIGHTS?


THEY WERE HELD UP, YOUR HIGHNESS!
REALLY! WELL, THEN I CAN'T LEAVE, JUST YET!

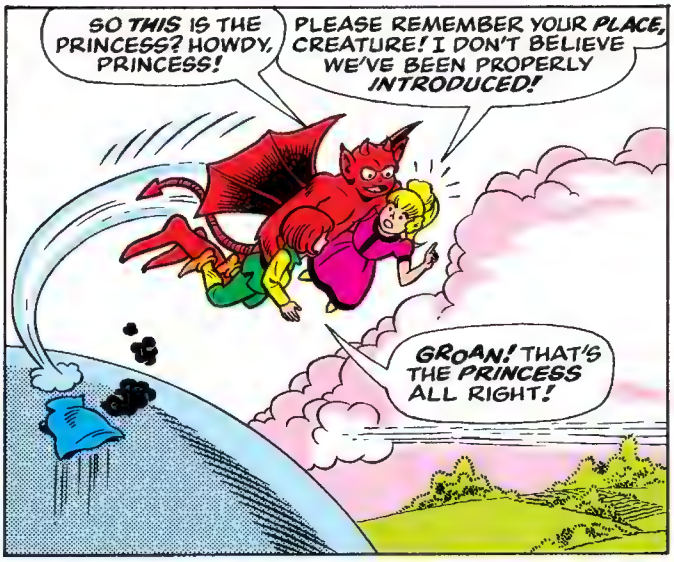

HOW WOULD IT LOOK IF I WERE RESCUED BY A MERE APPRENTICE WIZARD INSTEAD OF AN ARMY OF BRAVE KNIGHTS?
!

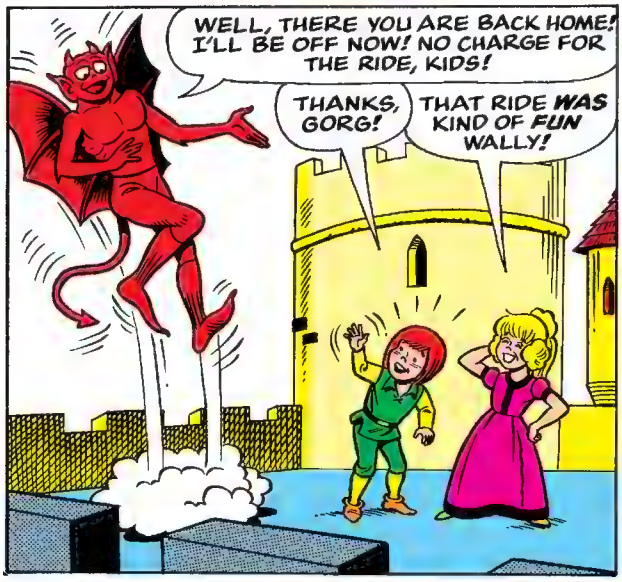

COME ON PRINCESS! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
GASP!...HOW DARE YOU PULL MY ARM!
LOOK! THE PRINCESS IS ESCAPING!
NOT SO LOUD! THINK ABOUT IT! THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO GET RID OF THAT PEST!


LOOK! THE PRINCESS IS ESCAPING! STOP THEM!
IT'S THAT APPRENTICE OF MARLIN'S!
KEEP MOVING, YOUR HIGHNESS!
STOP PUSHING ME, YOU RUDE BOY!
CHUCKLE! I GOT 'EM NOW! NO WAY OFF THIS ROOF!
THERE'S THE LAD, NOW! I THINK HE NEEDS A BIT OF HELP!
GORG! GORG! WHERE ARE YOU?
HERE WE GO! UPSA DAISY!
GASP! WHO IS THIS CREATURE?
JUST IN TIME!
3-2-1... BLAST OFF!
DASH IT! I CAN'T SEE THEM THROUGH THE SMOKE!
NOT TO WORRY! WE'LL GET THEM! ...HEH, HEH! THEY'RE TRAPPED ON THAT ROOF!
WOMP!
OOPS!... ≥SOB≤ MISSED THEM!
XIII

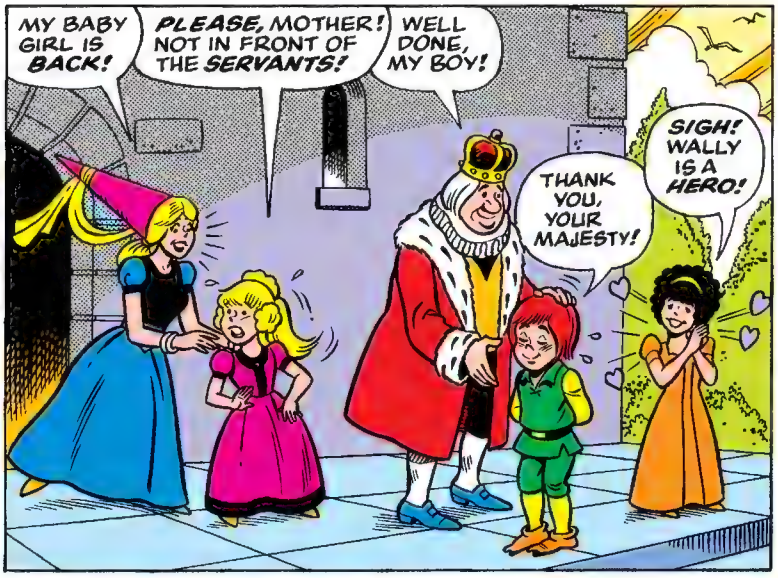

WHY DO YOU WANT TO STOP HERE, WALLY?
WALLY! GASP! THAT'S THE ROYAL CLOAK YOU'RE TAKING!
IT'S FOR A GOOD CAUSE, YOUR HIGHNESS!
FLIP!

I THINK I CAN SMOKE OUT VASTAR'S VARLOTS!

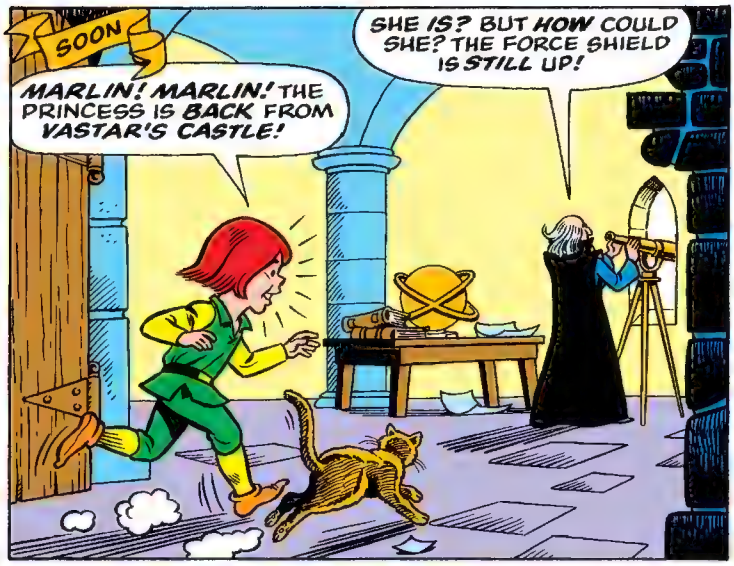

SO THIS IS THE PRINCESS? HOWDY, PRINCESS!
PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PLACE, CREATURE! I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE BEEN PROPERLY INTRODUCED!
GROAN! THAT'S THE PRINCESS ALL RIGHT!

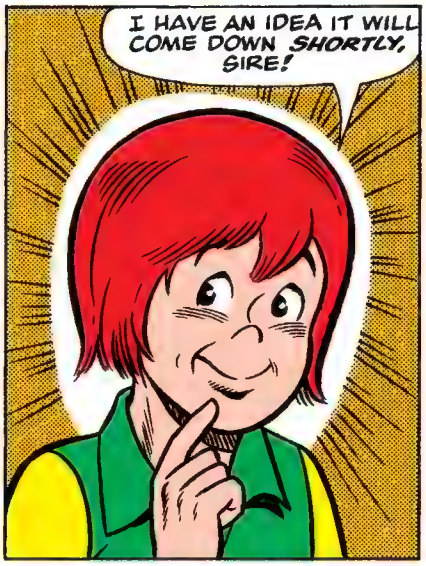

WELL, THERE YOU ARE BACK HOME! I'LL BE OFF NOW! NO CHARGE FOR THE RIDE, KIDS!
THANKS, GORG!
THAT RIDE WAS KIND OF FUN WALLY!

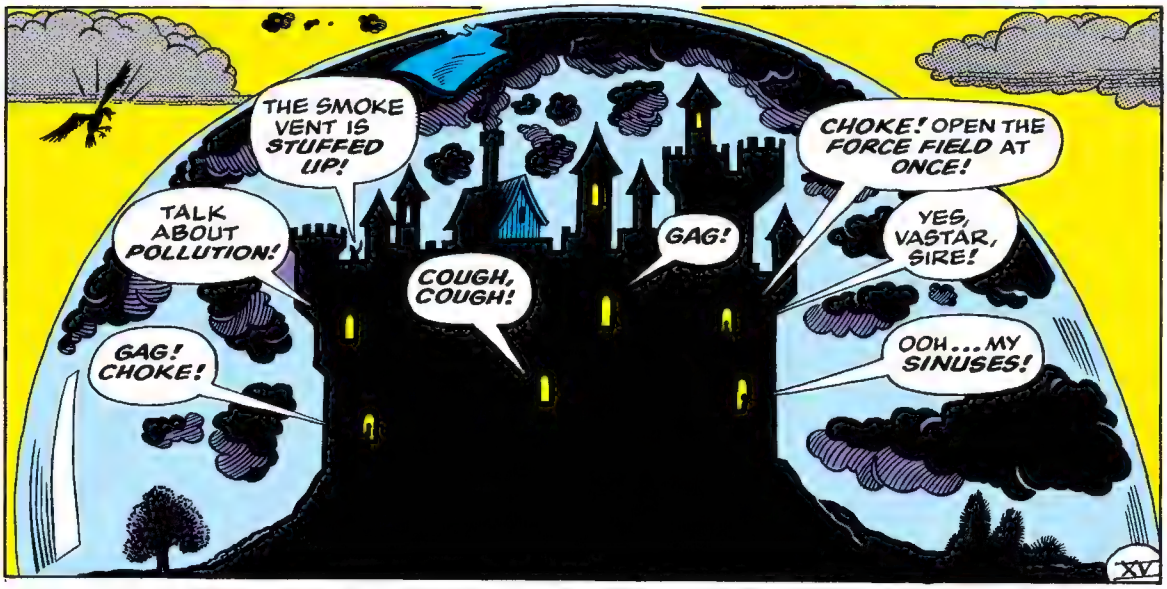
... AND YOU REALLY WERE SWEET TO RESCUE ME!
SMACK!

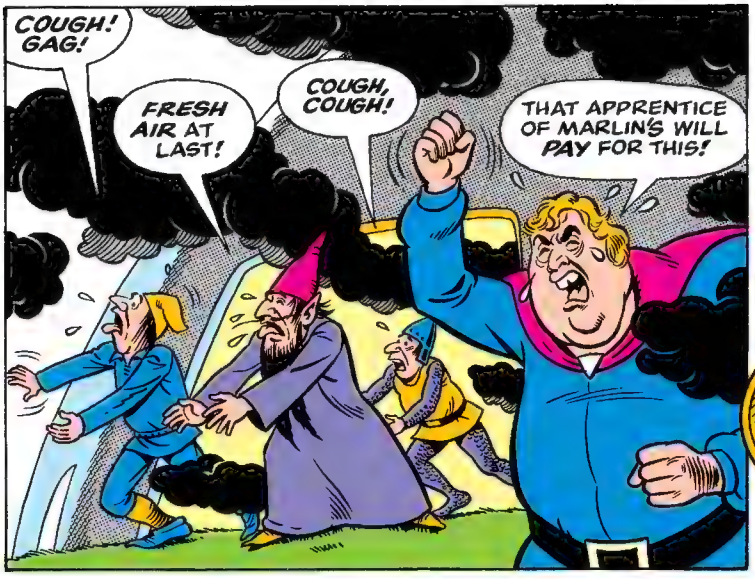

MY BABY GIRL IS BACK!
PLEASE, MOTHER! NOT IN FRONT OF THE SERVANTS!
WELL DONE, MY BOY!
THANK YOU, YOUR MAJESTY!
SIGH! WALLY IS A HERO!

OH, WALLY! I'M SO PROUD OF YOU!
THANKS, ALAINA! COMING FROM THE PRINCESS' LADY-IN-WAITING, THAT'S QUITE A COMPLIMENT!
NOW, IF ONLY YOU COULD SAVE ME!

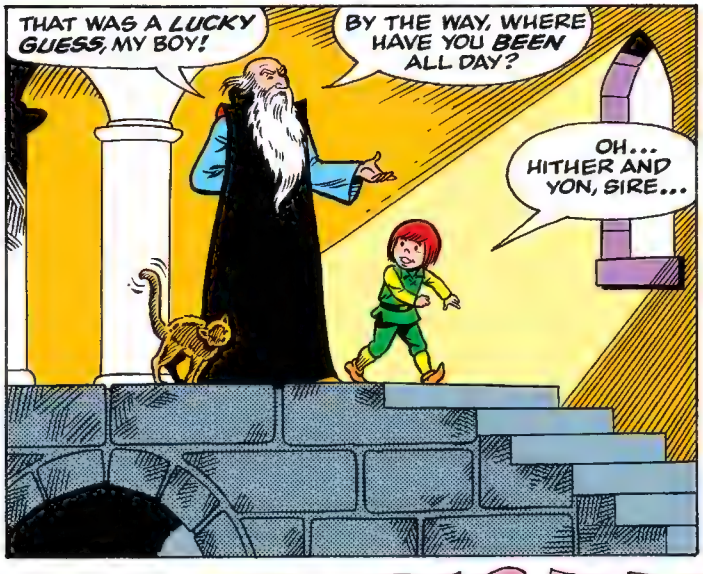

SOON
MARLIN! MARLIN! THE PRINCESS IS BACK FROM VASTAR'S CASTLE!
SHE IS? BUT HOW COULD SHE? THE FORCE SHIELD IS STILL UP!

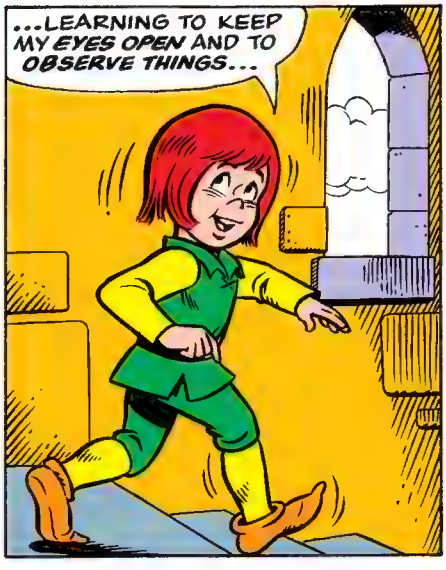

I HAVE AN IDEA IT WILL COME DOWN SHORTLY, SIRE!


THE SMOKE VENT IS STUFFED UP!
TALK ABOUT POLLUTION!
GAG! CHOKE!
COUGH, COUGH!
GAG!
CHOKE! OPEN THE FORCE FIELD AT ONCE!
YES, VASTAR, SIRE!
OOH... MY SINUSES!

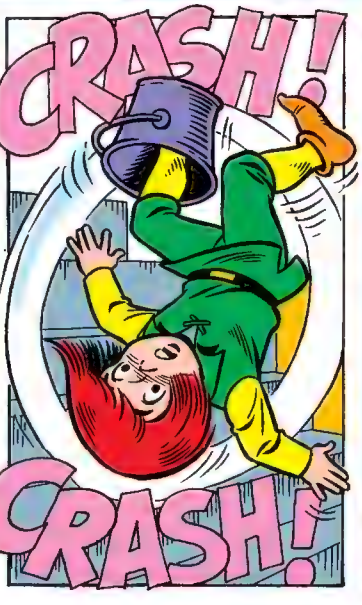

COUGH! GAG!
FRESH AIR AT LAST!
COUGH, COUGH!
THAT APPRENTICE OF MARLIN'S WILL PAY FOR THIS!

YOU'RE RIGHT! WALLY! VASTAR'S FORCE SHIELD IS GONE!


THAT WAS A LUCKY GUESS, MY BOY!
BY THE WAY, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL DAY?
OH... HITHER AND YON, SIRE...


...LEARNING TO KEEP MY EYES OPEN AND TO OBSERVE THINGS...

...JUST AS YOU TOLD ME TO!


CRASH!
CRASH!

WHAT WAS THAT YOU SAID, WALLY?
UH... NOTHING... NOTHING AT ALL, SIRE!
XVI THE END

IT'S SIR MALCOM! HE'S THE EIGHTH KNIGHT TO FALL AGAINST THE FIRE OF THE STRUMPSHIRE DRAGON!

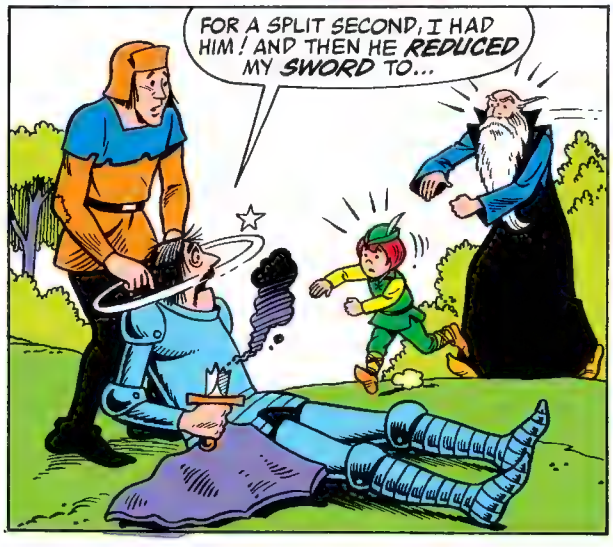
LOOK AT THAT, MARLIN! HIS SHIELD AND HIS SWORD... MELTED LIKE BUTTER.

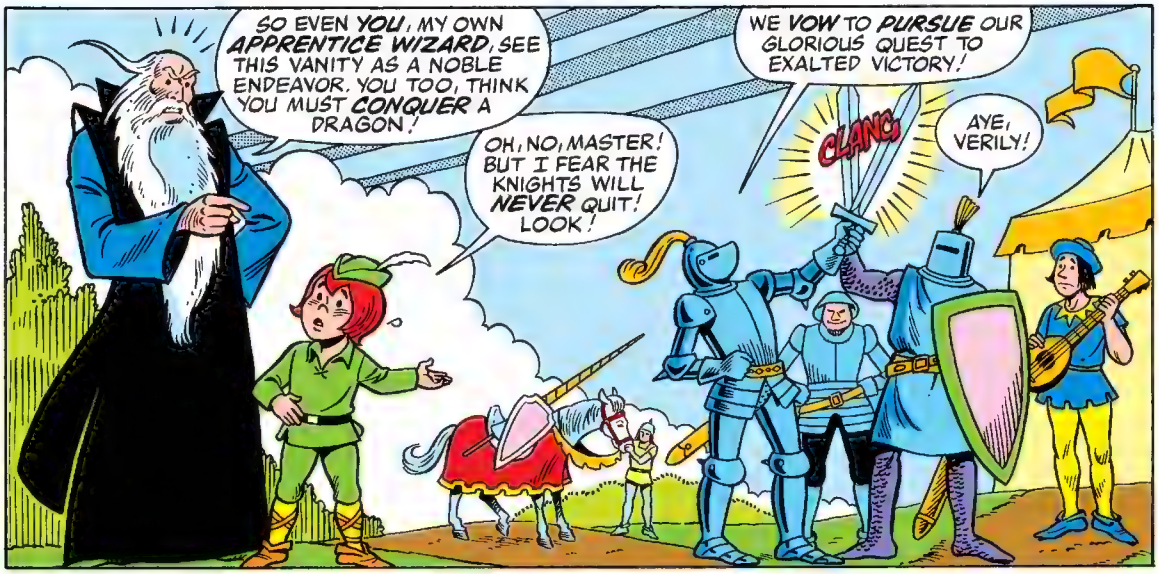
HE'S LUCKY HE ISN'T, WALLY! WHY DON'T THOSE FOOLS CALL IT A DAY AND LEAVE THAT DRAGON ALONE?

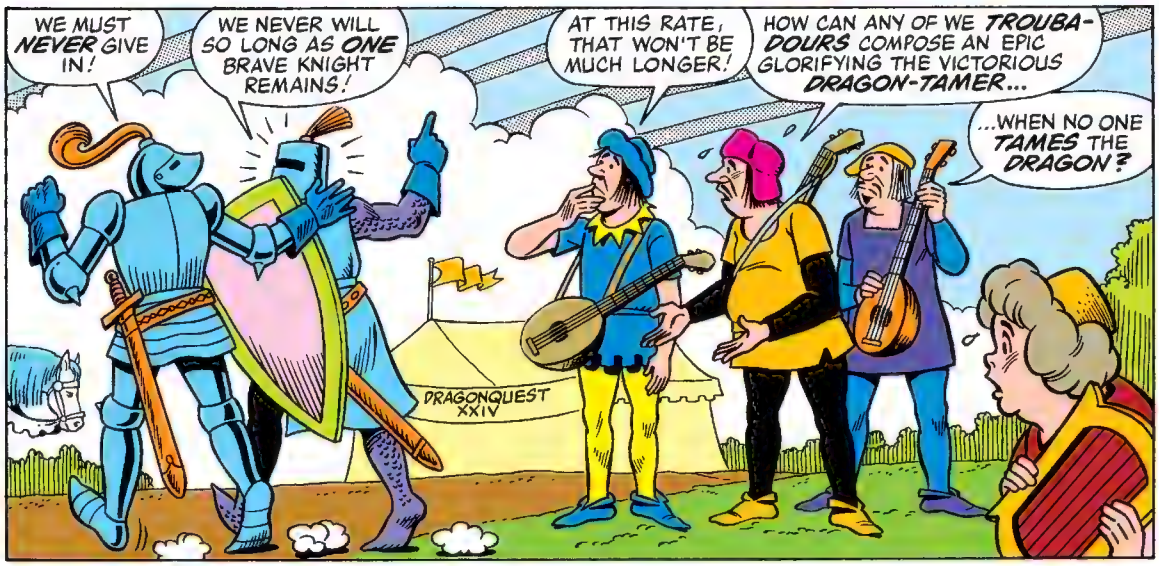
HQ

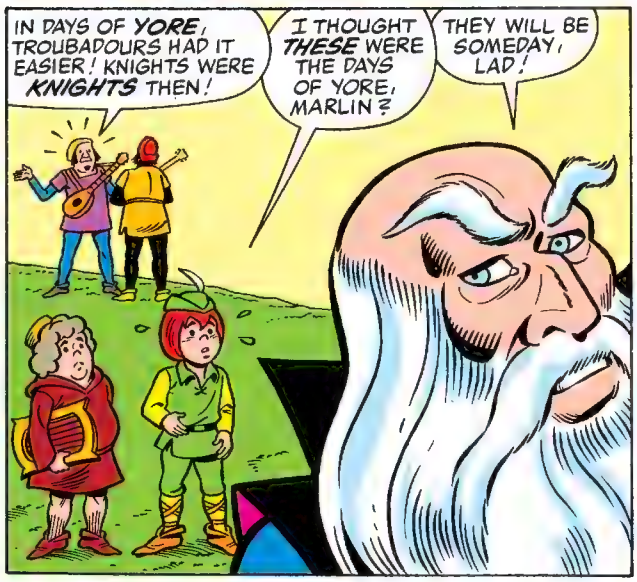
DRAGONQUEST XXIV

WALLY GREEN
WRITER
BEN BROWN
PENCILER
JON D'AGOSTINO
INKER

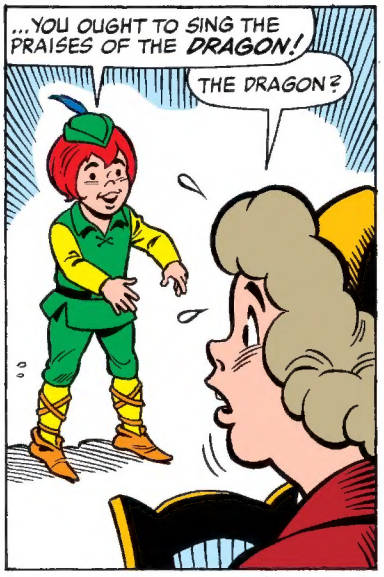


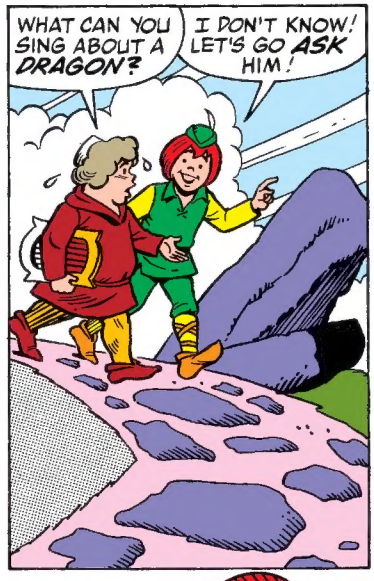

SO EVEN YOU, MY OWN APPRENTICE WIZARD, SEE THIS VANITY AS A NOBLE ENDEAVOR. YOU TOO, THINK YOU MUST CONQUER A DRAGON!
OH, NO, MASTER! BUT I FEAR THE KNIGHTS WILL NEVER QUIT! LOOK!
WE VOW TO PURSUE OUR GLORIOUS QUEST TO EXALTED VICTORY!
CLANG
AYE, VERILY!

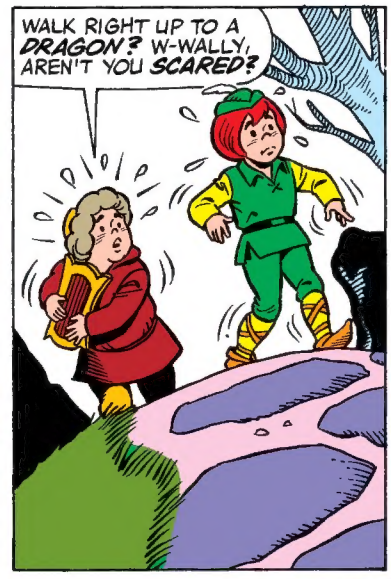

WE MUST NEVER GIVE IN!
WE NEVER WILL SO LONG AS ONE BRAVE KNIGHT REMAINS!
AT THIS RATE, THAT WON'T BE MUCH LONGER!
HOW CAN ANY OF WE TROUBADOURS COMPOSE AN EPIC GLORIFYING THE VICTORIOUS DRAGON-TAMER...
...WHEN NO ONE TAMES THE DRAGON?
DRAGONQUEST XXIV

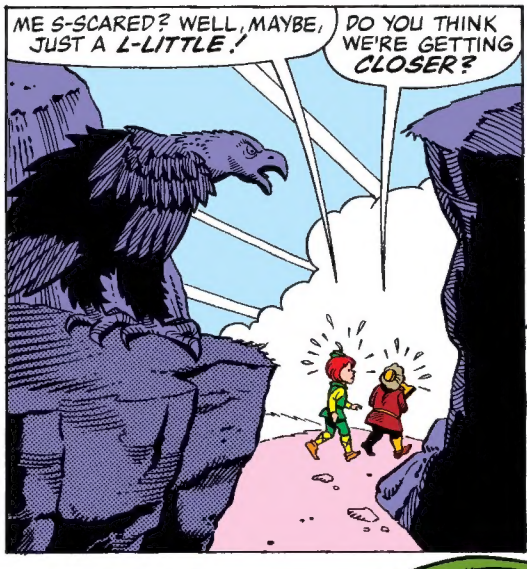

IN DAYS OF YORE, TROUBADOURS HAD IT EASIER! KNIGHTS WERE KNIGHTS THEN!
I THOUGHT THESE WERE THE DAYS OF YORE, MARLIN?
THEY WILL BE SOMEDAY, LAD!

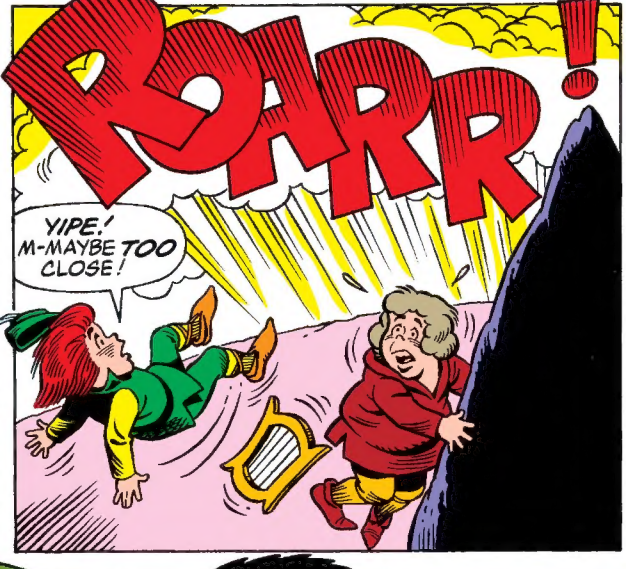
WALLY, HOW CAN I EVER LEARN TO WRITE GREAT EPIC POETRY WHEN EVEN THE MASTERS ARE DISCOURAGED?
WELL, JAY! PERHAPS INSTEAD OF SINGING THE PRAISES OF A KNIGHT...

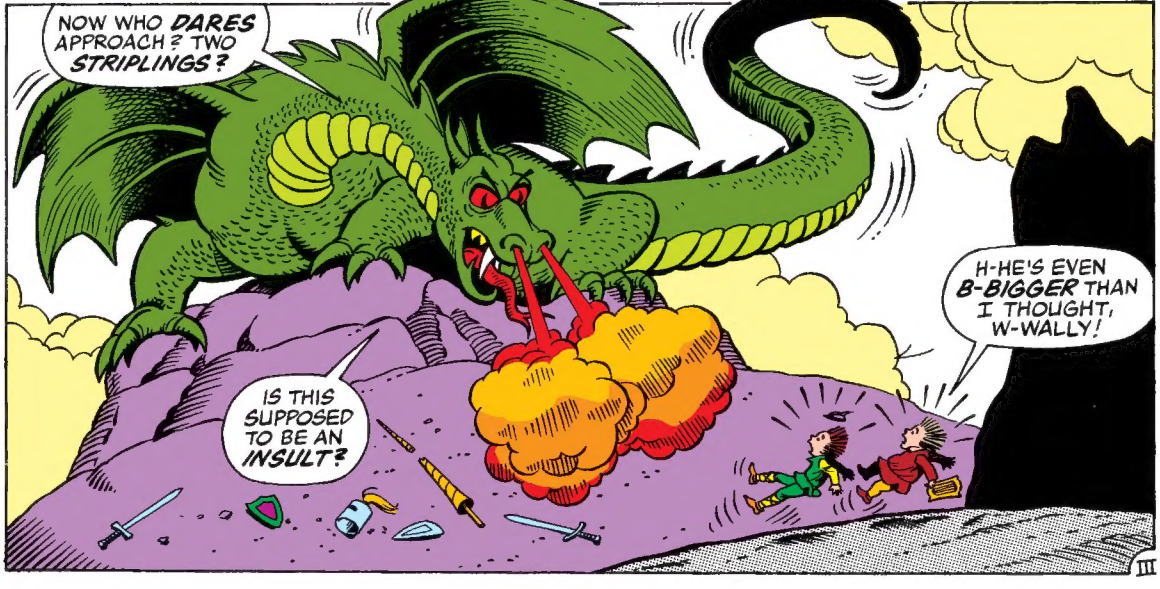

...YOU OUGHT TO SING THE PRAISES OF THE DRAGON!
THE DRAGON?

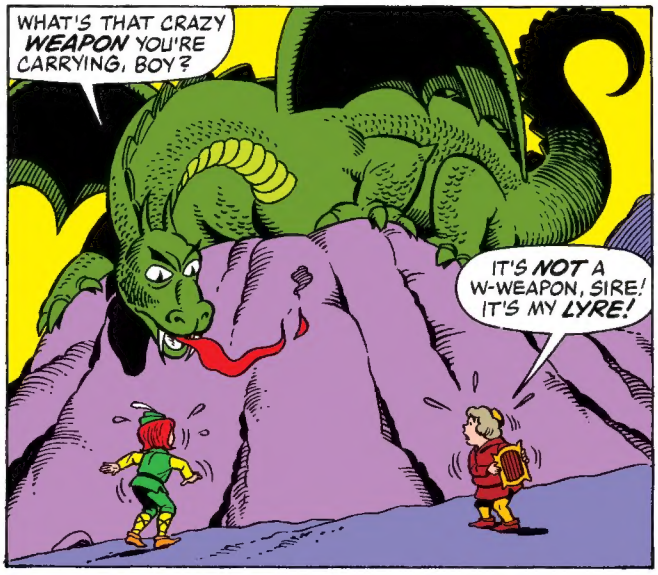

WHAT CAN YOU SING ABOUT A DRAGON?
I DON'T KNOW! LET'S GO ASK HIM!

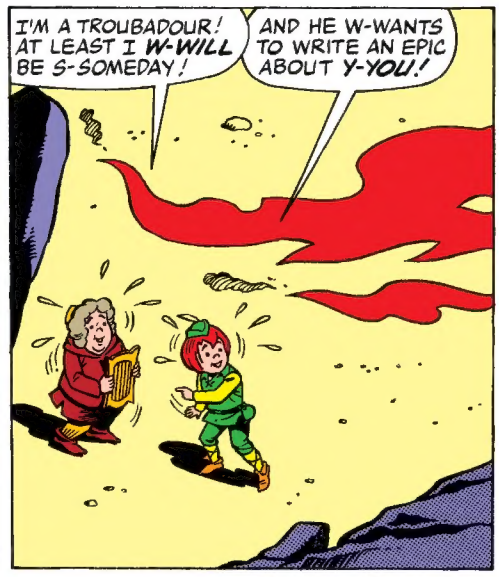

WALK RIGHT UP TO A DRAGON? W-WALLY, AREN'T YOU SCARED?

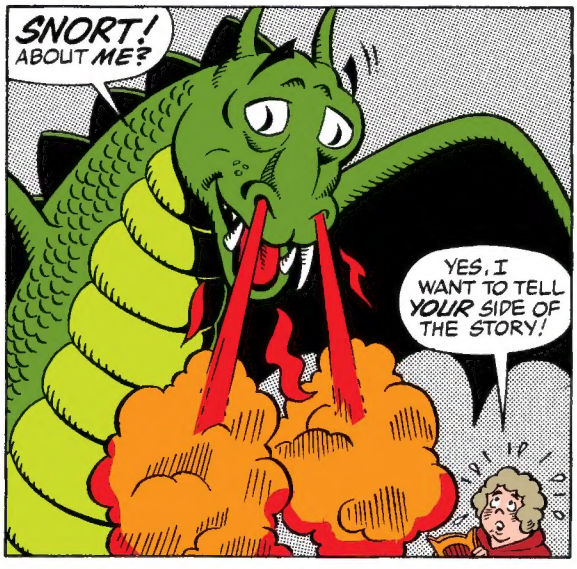

ME S-SCARED? WELL, MAYBE, JUST A L-LITTLE!
DO YOU THINK WE'RE GETTING CLOSER?

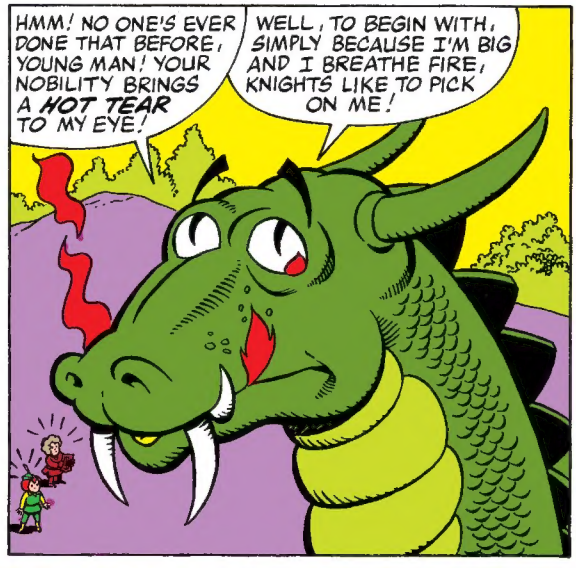

ROARR!
YIPE! M-MAYBE TOO CLOSE!

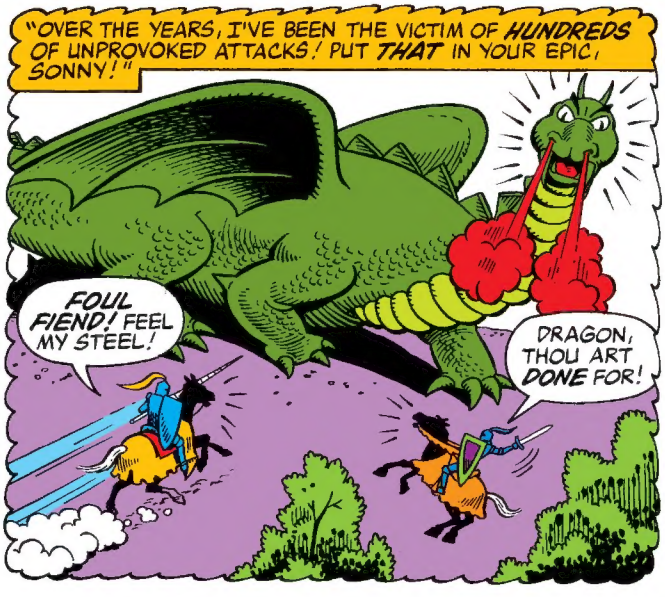

NOW WHO DARES APPROACH? TWO STRIPLINGS?
IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE AN INSULT?
H-HE'S EVEN B-BIGGER THAN I THOUGHT, W-WALLY!

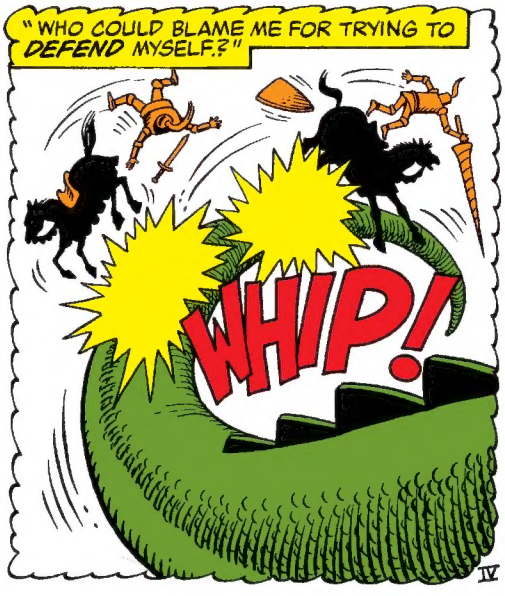

WHAT'S THAT CRAZY WEAPON YOU'RE CARRYING, BOY?
IT'S NOT A W-WEAPON, SIRE! IT'S MY LYRE!


I'M A TROUBADOUR! AT LEAST I W-WILL BE S-SOMEDAY!
AND HE W-WANTS TO WRITE AN EPIC ABOUT Y-YOU!

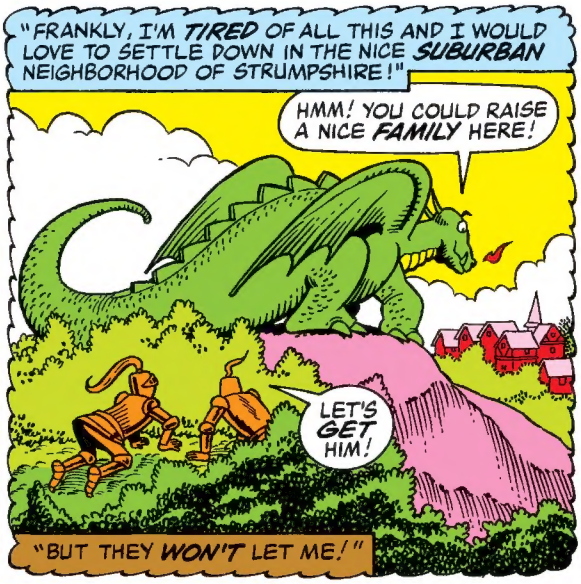

SNORT! ABOUT ME?
YES, I WANT TO TELL YOUR SIDE OF THE STORY!


HMM! NO ONE'S EVER DONE THAT BEFORE, YOUNG MAN! YOUR NOBILITY BRINGS A HOT TEAR TO MY EYE!
WELL, TO BEGIN WITH, SIMPLY BECAUSE I'M BIG AND I BREATHE FIRE, KNIGHTS LIKE TO PICK ON ME!

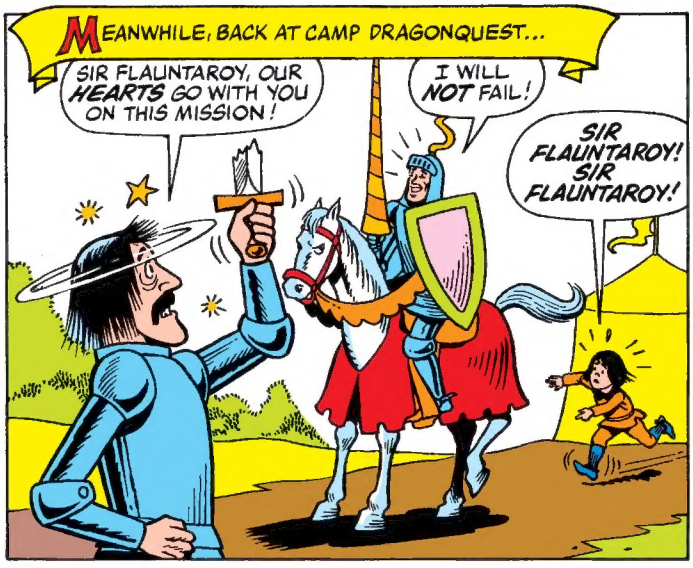

"OVER THE YEARS, I'VE BEEN THE VICTIM OF HUNDREDS OF UNPROVOKED ATTACKS! PUT THAT IN YOUR EPIC, SONNY!"
FOUL FIEND! FEEL MY STEEL!
DRAGON, THOU ART DONE FOR!

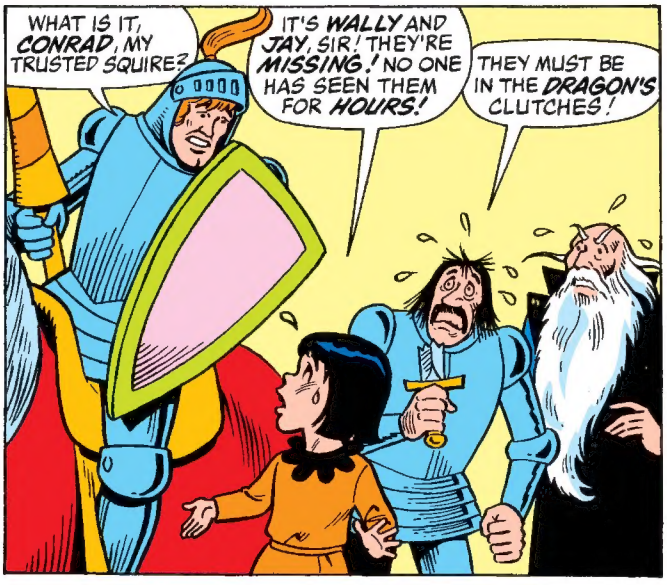

"WHO COULD BLAME ME FOR TRYING TO DEFEND MYSELF?"
WHIP!

"WHEREVER I GO, PEOPLE DRIVE ME AWAY! CAN I HELP IT IF MY HOT BREATH FRIGHTENS THEM?"
RUN--BEFORE THE BEAST SCORCHES US ALL!

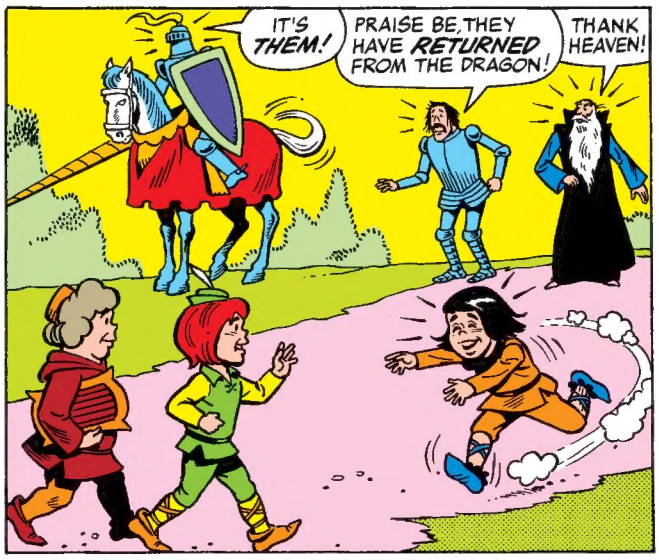

"FRANKLY, I'M TIRED OF ALL THIS AND I WOULD LOVE TO SETTLE DOWN IN THE NICE SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD OF STRUMPSHIRE!"
HMM! YOU COULD RAISE A NICE FAMILY HERE!
LET'S GET HIM!
"BUT THEY WON'T LET ME!"

THINK YOU CAN WRITE A NICE EPIC OUT OF THAT?
OH, I CAN! I CAN!


MEANWHILE, BACK AT CAMP DRAGONQUEST...
SIR FLAUNTAROY, OUR HEARTS GO WITH YOU ON THIS MISSION!
I WILL NOT FAIL!
SIR FLAUNTAROY! SIR FLAUNTAROY!


WHAT IS IT, CONRAD, MY TRUSTED SQUIRE?
IT'S WALLY AND JAY, SIR! THEY'RE MISSING! NO ONE HAS SEEN THEM FOR HOURS!
THEY MUST BE IN THE DRAGON'S CLUTCHES!

THEN I SHALL AVENGE THEM WITH MY TRUSTY LANCE!
WAIT! LOOK!

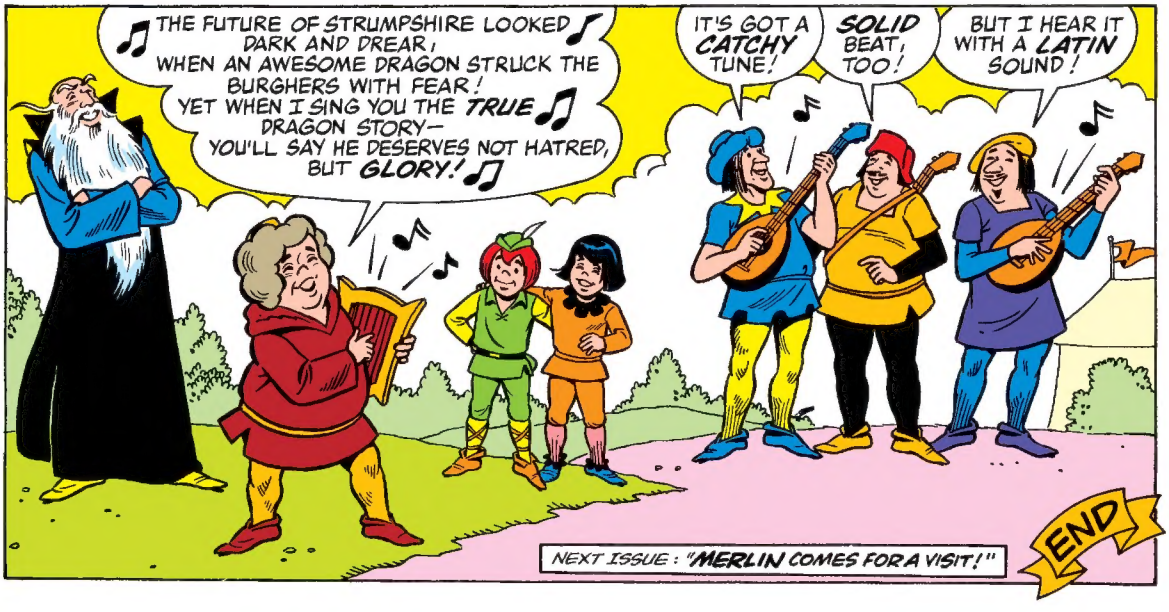

IT'S THEM!
PRAISE BE, THEY HAVE RETURNED FROM THE DRAGON!
THANK HEAVEN!

LISTEN, EVERYBODY! THE DRAGON SAYS HE WILL BRING HARM TO NO ONE!
THAT VICIOUS MONSTER? WE DON'T BELIEVE IT!
IT'S TRUE!

AND WHAT FEARFUL PRICE DOES HE DEMAND?
NONE! EXCEPT WE LEAVE HIM IN PEACE!

AND ONE OTHER LITTLE THING!
WHAT'S THAT?

THAT OUR TROUBADOURS LEARN JAY'S SAGA OF THE MERCIFUL AND ADMIRABLE DRAGON AND SING HIS GLORY EVERYWHERE!
SING IT, JAY, BABY!


♫ THE FUTURE OF STRUMPSHIRE LOOKED DARK AND DREAR, WHEN AN AWESOME DRAGON STRUCK THE BURGHERS WITH FEAR! YET WHEN I SING YOU THE TRUE DRAGON STORY— YOU'LL SAY HE DESERVES NOT HATRED, BUT GLORY! ♫
IT'S GOT A CATCHY TUNE!
SOLID BEAT, TOO!
BUT I HEAR IT WITH A LATIN SOUND!
NEXT ISSUE: "MERLIN COMES FOR A VISIT!"
END